Welcome to fall! The cool air is settling in and so are the beautiful colors. With the change of colors come all the changes for the upcoming holiday season. (Yes, I said it.) Now would be a good time to think through how you and your family will manage the changes that come with the holiday season.

We all do things to get ready for the holidays. Some decorate, shop, and bake. Then there is the scheduling. How many holiday events can you find booked on the same day?

I asked my 16-year-old son what he thought would help someone with change. He thought, “Knowing when it actually happens. Give you what you need to know about what is going to change. If they have a problem with change then they should make a negotiation. A few changes but not a lot because not everybody likes change.” I thought this advice was great!

Knowing when it actually happens - Share the change in schedule with a reasonable advance.
Give you what you need to know - Make the change visual if possible. Have it on a personal calendar, family calendar, or whiteboard.
Negotiate - Realize that we don’t all have to do everything. Not everyone enjoys the holiday busyness. Keep the stress down by carefully selecting the activities to participate in.
Think it through in advance. Some planning could make the special moments through the next few months some great memories!

Michele Matz, President
Growing up in Wisconsin, Fall was always my favorite time of the year. I loved the cooler temperatures, the breathtaking colors, and the soft crunch of leaves under my feet. I also loved Fall because with its arrival came Halloween and all of the spooky, scary, fun!

But, for people on the autism spectrum, Halloween can be much more spooky, scary, and stressful. It can be anything but fun. For individuals with autism, the celebration of Halloween can seem to turn the world around. It is a time of year when sensory insults multiply and everyday social rules get abandoned. It is important for those of us not on the spectrum to remember that sensory insults may not just be uncomfortable, they may actually be painful for the individual experiencing them. It is also key to consider the multitude of social conventions that this season brings with it: all of a sudden and for what may seem to be no reason, it is OK to take candy from people we don’t know, knock on strangers’ doors, and dress up like somebody else (just to name a few).

The following are a few ideas to help your family get through Halloween with a little less scary, a little less stress, and hopefully a lot more fun!

BEFORE THE BIG DAY: HALLOWEEN PREP

- When out shopping, remember that even displays in stores can be scary and have loud unexpected noises and flashing lights. You may want to avoid these areas of stores at this time of year.
- If your child has trouble with changes, decorate your house slowly, making changes gradually (think about decorating over a few weeks instead of a few days). You also may want to take videos or pictures of this decorating process for next year, so they can look back and see the changes happening and know what to expect.

CARVING PUMPKINS

- When partaking in the all-too fun and all-too messy task of carving pumpkins, realize that for some children, the sensory experience of this may be overwhelming. If your child is sensitive, offer them alternatives to touching pumpkin “guts” with their hands. Use spoons, gloves, or let them watch the process. Remember, the smell might also be overwhelming, so if your child wants to leave the room let them! If you would like them to be included in the process, consider other alternatives like drawing or painting on pumpkins. There are a lot of cool decorating kits out now that stick on pumpkins as well.

STAYING HOME AND GIVING OUT CANDY

- Have 2 candy bowls. One bowl to “keep” and one bowl to “give”. Even better if these bowls are marked (to help everyone remember!).
COSTUMES

- Prepare your child for the fact that people will be in costumes. They might look really different than normal. You might not be able to see their faces under masks or hoods. Sometimes people that are dressed up may carry around "weapons".
- When thinking about costumes, remember that people's faces can be extremely sensitive. Think about costumes that do not require masks or make-up.
- If you know someone who is sensitive about what they wear, consider choosing a Halloween costume that fits over their regular clothes, such as butterfly wings or a cape.
- Try on the costume before it is needed. See how it feels to sit and walk in it.

BEFORE TRICK OR TREATING

- Write a script for your child. "Trick-or-Treat" and "Thank you"; and when to say them.
- They say "practice makes perfect". Practice the routine before the big event. Do this at home or enlist friends or family members for a Trick-or-Treat rehearsal.
- Grab your phone or iPad and make a video model of Trick-or-Treating! This model could have either your child or another child engaging in the routine.
- If your child does not have access to reliable verbal communication, remember to program and bring their communication system OR simply a card that they can give out that says "Trick-or-Treat".
- Go over the rules of Trick-or-Treating beforehand!
- If people leave bowls of candy out on their porch, we either "follow their rules" or take 1 or 2 pieces.
- Some Trick-or-Treaters may benefit from having a visual schedule of the activity. Include a map of where you are going and what will happen before and after Trick-or-Treating.

WHILE TRICK OR TREATING

- Keep it short, and be prepared to end early. It is much better to end early and on a positive note than to push and go out too long.
- For the sake of special diets and safety, bring along extra "treats" that you know are safe to eat on the trip.
- For the littlest Trick-or-Treaters, think about bringing a wagon along to ride in and/or comfort items from home to ease the trip.

TRICK OR TREAT ALTERNATIVES

- If outside Trick-or-Treating at night just seems too scary, consider Trick-or-Treating at the mall or other neighborhood alternative (but check with friends that have participated in these events before, as sometimes they can be really crowded and noisy).
- Check and see if neighboring communities have daytime Trick-or-Treating hours. Daylight can help the experience be a lot less scary.
- Take the night off! Turn off your lights. Put on headphones and watch a favorite movie. You be the one to put out the bowl of candy or even put out an empty bowl (visitors will just think you are out of candy).

ALL OF IT JUST SEEM LIKE JUST TOO MUCH?

- In this season, as in any holiday season, listen to the messages in your child’s behavior. It is perfectly OK to keep the celebration low key, start new traditions, or not to celebrate at all!
2015 Autism Society of Wisconsin Conference
Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

Temple Grandin
How People with Autism Think & Feel
Keynote Address, May 1st

In this special presentation backed by personal experience and evidence-based research, Dr. Temple Grandin will provide a look into the mind of an individual with autism.

- Learn how Dr. Grandin’s thought process resembles an internet image search - and how she has put that gift into action.
- Hear Dr. Grandin’s message for educators, policy makers and corporations: producing successful business results and public policy requires different kinds of minds working together.
- Take away practical tips for parenting, teaching and learning from the individuals with autism in your life.

Early Bird Registration Opens 10.20.14

Literacy for All! Strategies to Support Emerging Readers on the Autism Spectrum
Preconference Workshop, April 30

Participants will learn the basics for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to read by providing comprehensive instruction, using evidence-based practices. Case studies will be presented along with demonstrations of how to teach working with words, guided reading, writing, and self-selected reading.

As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to state the core challenges students with ASD experience that impact literacy and their ability to access curriculum and standards; learn how to write meaningful standards-based IEP goals and objectives with examples that take into account student challenges; and employ effective literacy strategies for struggling and emerging readers with autism.

Call for Proposals

We are currently accepting proposals. The purpose of the conference is to provide a wide range of information to those affected by autism, including those who are new to autism and those who have years of experience. Breakout sessions take place on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, lasting one hour and fifteen minutes each.

We’re looking for presentations on topics affecting those with autism at all ages, from early childhood through adulthood. Of particular interest are submissions that include practical strategies and include the following content: evidence based practices, challenging behaviors, positive behavior support, bullying, interventions using technology, issues affecting teens & young adults, aging with autism, single parenting and more. Be creative!

The Call for Proposal form is available on our conference page at www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html. If you have any questions, email mvandevelden@asw4autism.org or call 920-973-6636. All proposals are due by Friday, November 21, 2014.

FOR MORE CONFERENCE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops
Invest in the future of the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

Explore all the ways to give:

- **Employee/Matching Gifts** – Many employers encourage employees to give by matching employee gifts dollar-for-dollar. Check with your human resource department to find out more.
- **Honorary** – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member or other loved one.
- **Memorial** – Memorial gifts made to the Autism Society of Wisconsin are to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.
- **Planned Giving** – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the Autism Society. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.
- **Unrestricted Giving** – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund programs which need it most. Donations can be mailed to the ASW office or can be made online through our Network for Good site, accessed from our home page: www.asw4autism.org.

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952

Please call our office for more information on any of these giving opportunities.
Our new webinar series for parents and individuals on the autism spectrum kicked off on September 24th. Chelsea Budde and Denise Schamens of Good Friend, Inc., presented on Bullying and Autism in School. In case you missed it, the webinar has been archived and is available at your convenience on our website http://www.asw4autism.org/webinars.html. Details about our next webinar are below.

**Autism and the IEP: Matching Services and Supports with the Needs of Students with Autism**

Daniel Parker of WI Department of Public Instruction

**November 5, 2014 12-1PM:**

Currently, the CDC reports 1 in 68 students have some form of autism. This is 1 student for every 2 or 3 classrooms! During this webinar we will discuss the IEP process with a specific focus on educational eligibility criteria for students with autism. We will review questions IEP teams may ask to assist in matching the strengths and needs of students with autism to services and accommodations which support skillful and independent outcomes.

**REGISTER TODAY!**
Membership Application

Date of Application_______________________

Name ________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________________ Phone (     ) _______________________

Email ____________________________  □ ASW is going green! To receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please check here

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) shares membership with the local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By checking a local affiliate, you will join both the state and local affiliate and receive member benefits from both. To become a member of only the state chapter, leave this section blank. To become a member of the Autism Society of America, the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and/or the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and to find out more about their membership benefits, please contact them separately.

□ Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV) Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties

□ Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL) Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties

□ Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW) Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonie and Marinette Counties.


□ Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (CVAS) Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin, autismsouthcentral.org or autismsouthcentral@gmail.com


Membership Categories :   Individual ($12) _____  Family ($15) _____        New Member _____       Renewing Member_____

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_____Enclosed is a $10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!

Additional contribution (tax deductible).

_____ $25     _____$50     _____$100     _____ $ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

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1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI  54952
Fax (920) 558-4611

If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call 888-428-8476.
Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

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Donations may be sent to:
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1477 Kenwood Drive
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We also accept donations online. Click the Donate Now button on our homepage: www.asw4autism.org

Thank you for your support!

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ASW Board Meeting to be held on
January 17, 2015