

# AUTISM TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH | 2020



## HELPING PEOPLE. IT'S WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.

“The Aging and Disability Services Division provides leadership and advocacy in the planning, development, and delivery of a high quality, comprehensive support service system across the lifespan. This allows all of Nevada’s elders, adults and children with disabilities or special health care needs to live independent, meaningful, and dignified lives, in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.”

Should you have any questions about the information provided, please reach out to your ATAP Developmental Specialist.

## ATAP REMINDERS & UPDATES

- **COVID-19:** To inform Nevadans statewide, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Governor's Office have created this website to better share information and resources as it pertains to the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact within the state of Nevada: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>
  - ADSD Community Resources for Coronavirus: <http://adsd.nv.gov/Home/Coronavirus/Community Provider Resources for Coronavirus>
  - **Families and Providers:** If anyone in your **household** or **ANY** of your staff is exhibiting any of the following symptoms listed in the CDC website below, **YOU MUST** cancel any upcoming home visits **and/or** sessions by contacting your Developmental Specialist and your provider: fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. If you're experiencing symptoms, call your medical provider.
  - [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) - Symptoms](#)
  - If there have been any recent changes in your family's income, please inform your Developmental Specialist so they can re-evaluate your Funding Reduction.
- **REMINDER:** If your child is on an insurance plan that renews in July, please submit a copy of last year's EOBs and this year's updated insurance card to your ATAP DS.
- **MAY 2020 CENSUS:** The Census will be starting soon! The census count is done once every 10 years and the data collected is used to determine the allocation of federal funding. This is important as it determines where communities need new schools, clinics, roads and services for families, older adults, and children. The results also inform how federal funding is allocated to more than 100 programs including Medicaid, Head Start, mental health services, SNAP, etc. We encourage all families to participate.
- **PUBLIC CHARGE:** Under Section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), an individual seeking admission to the United States or seeking to adjust status to permanent resident (obtaining a green card) is inadmissible if the individual "at the time of application for admission or adjustment of status, is likely at any time to become a public charge." An individual who is likely at any time to become a public charge is inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to become a legal permanent resident. However, receiving public benefits does not automatically make an individual a public charge. This new law went into effect on February 24, 2020. Please review the

# AUTISM TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH | 2020



“Fact Sheet” and “USCIS Announcement of Public Charge Rule Implementation” to obtain more detailed information on what types of benefits are subject to public charge and which are not.

- <https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-announces-public-charge-rule-implementation-following-supreme-court-stay-nationwide-injunctions>
- <https://www.uscis.gov/news/fact-sheets/public-charge-fact-sheet>
- Brief Summary of Public Charge provided by Legal Aid of Southern Nevada:
  - Benefits received affect the entire household, so parents whose child receives SSI benefits could potentially be affected by this law.
  - USCIS has not provided parameters on the time frame they are looking at, but it was suggested that they typically look back 5 to 10 years. An individual who received benefits 8 years ago looks better than an individual who received benefits 2 years ago.
  - ATAP services will not affect the child or their family as services are not considered cash benefits. ATAP pays the provider directly; the family doesn't receive payments or any cash amount from ATAP.
  - Regional services such as Family Preservation Program can affect families as the family receives a monthly cash allotment and determines how the funds are utilized.
  - Public charge doesn't apply to any individuals under TPS, U-Visa; T-Visa, Asylum, Special Juvenile Status, refugees or Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") recipients.
  - The new law **will affect** Lawful Permanent Residents who are petitioning for family members inside or outside of the U.S. or individuals seeking to adjust status to permanent resident.
- If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Washoe Legal Services (299 S. Arlington Ave Reno, Nevada 89501; 775.329.2727) to obtain clarification or assistance.
- **If your child is currently without a provider**, please make sure you are calling providers monthly to ensure your child is still on their waitlist, and to check on the status. This is a requirement to stay active with ATAP.
- **Parent training is a requirement to stay active with ATAP** (if you are funded by ATAP.) If your provider does not have you working on parent programs, please reach out to your ATAP DS and let them know.
- **REMINDER:** Monthly contact with your ATAP DS is **mandatory** to keep ATAP funding. Please make sure you are staying in touch monthly with your DS.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Northern Nevada Autism Network – Korri Ward -  
[www.nnan.org](http://www.nnan.org)

Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center  
905 Railroad Street Elko, NV 775-753-1690 –  
[www.elkondalc.org](http://www.elkondalc.org)

Autism Research Institute – Autism Research and  
Education [www.autism.org](http://www.autism.org)  
PACE Coalition for Healthy Communities –  
[www.pacecoalition.org](http://www.pacecoalition.org)

Hippotherapy: Ruby Mountain Riding – Carolyn  
Steninger 775-753-6164

Positive Behavior Support – Nevada: Ongoing Classes  
[https://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced\\_pbsnevada](https://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced_pbsnevada)

Wrightslaw: Special Education Law and Advocacy -  
[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

# AUTISM TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH | 2020



# ATAP

Aging and Disability Services Division

## RESOURCES FOR ACTIVITIES & WEBSITES

Social Stories about COVID-19

<https://www.flipsnack.com/KeshetChicago/coronavirus-social-story/full-view.html?fbclid=IwAR1TI9uCyLFcu1baJbisaPATbFPUpTniM8RkCRq5MdUabum8pwSrpswqdZc>

Screen time alternatives

[https://health.clevelandclinic.org/12-healthier-alternatives-to-screen-time-when-kids-are-stuck-at-home-with-no-school/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=cc+posts&fbclid=IwARoQ7PsU9oju](https://health.clevelandclinic.org/12-healthier-alternatives-to-screen-time-when-kids-are-stuck-at-home-with-no-school/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=cc+posts&fbclid=IwARoQ7PsU9oju)

[ulPGNaNPMUq6RC7ecPdfQPyhZU88OXCsiIRoeqjWWhSAjQQ](http://ulPGNaNPMUq6RC7ecPdfQPyhZU88OXCsiIRoeqjWWhSAjQQ)

Suggestions for physical/sensory activities (check OT Toolbox and The Sensory Spectrum Facebook pages)  
[www.theotttoolbox.com](http://www.theotttoolbox.com)

Education companies offering free subscriptions  
<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/?fbclid=IwAR2QOP9NUzw39uBwvIZ1XVCkq9dfMGf2BZO1qSurzSKsCo5miHjc59idv1U>



Switcheroo Zoo

[www.switcheroozoo.com](http://www.switcheroozoo.com)

Watch, listen, and play games to learn all about amazing animals!

Nat Geo for Kids

[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)

Learn all about geography and fascinating animals!

Into the Book

[www.reading.ecb.org](http://www.reading.ecb.org)

Go "into the book" to play games that practice reading strategies!

Suessville

[www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)

Read, play games, and hang out with Dr. Seuss and his friends!

ABC YA

[www.abcy.com](http://www.abcy.com)

Practice math and reading skills all while playing fun games!

Fun Brain

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

Play games while practicing math and reading skills!

PBS Kids

[www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

Hang out with your favorite characters all while learning!

Star Fall

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Practice your phonics skills with these read-along stories!

Storyline Online

[www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

Have some of your favorite stories read to you by movie stars!

Highlights Kids

[www.highlightskids.com](http://www.highlightskids.com)

Read, play games, and conduct cool science experiments!