

# Senator Kevin Parker Speaks Out for People with Autism



Dear Friend,

As you may know, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. It is estimated there are approximately one million people in the U.S. affected with Autism.

ASDs are very complex disorders and the needs of individuals vary greatly. Autism is a life-long disability for many affected individuals. After 50 years of research, traditional and contemporary approaches are enabling us to understand and treat ASDs. Many parents and professionals are beginning to realize the symptoms of Autism and seek treatment. There are also many early interventions that can make a significant difference in enhancing the lives of those affected.

**National Autism Awareness Month** is celebrated each April. I proposed legislation that will significantly enhance services to individuals affected by Autism. The bills include the creation of a registry to help find individuals with Autism when they go missing; allowing therapy dogs for people with ASDs to enter public places and transportation; defining a bill of rights for persons with Autism or ASDs; and providing a tax credit for money expended on the care of a qualifying disabled child including children with ASDs. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to pass this comprehensive legislative package.

I hope that you find this information about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) to be both helpful and informative. As always, please feel free to contact my district office at (718) 629-6401 if I or my staff can be of any assistance.

Yours in Partnership,

  
**KEVIN PARKER**  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District



## Does a child you know...

- Avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- Have trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Have delayed speech and language skills
- Repeat certain words or phrases over and over or repeat what others say
- Give unrelated answers to questions
- Get upset by minor changes or have to follow certain routines
- Have obsessive interests
- Engage in repetitive movements (hand-clapping, rocking, or spinning)
- Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look, or feel
- Not share interests with others; only interact to achieve a desired goal
- Have flat or inappropriate facial expressions
- Not understand personal space or boundaries
- Avoid or resist physical contact
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not point or wave goodbye)
- Talk in a flat, robot-like, or sing-song voice
- Not engage in pretend play (e.g., does not pretend to "feed" a doll)

**... if so, they may need help.**

# HOW TO FIND HELP:

If unsure where to go for help, talk to someone you trust who has experience in mental health—for example, a doctor, nurse, social worker, or religious counselor. Ask their advice on where to seek treatment. If there is a university nearby, its departments of psychiatry or psychology may offer private and/or sliding-scale fee clinic treatment options. Otherwise, check the Yellow Pages under “mental health,” “health,” “social services,” “crisis intervention services,” “hotlines,” “hospitals,” or “physicians” for phone numbers and addresses. In times of crisis, the emergency room doctor at a hospital may be able to provide temporary help for a mental health problem, and will be able to tell you where and how to get further help.

**Listed below are the types of people and places that will make a referral to, or provide, diagnostic and treatment services.**

- **Family doctors**
- **Mental health specialists, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, or mental health counselors**
- **Religious leaders/counselors**
- **Health maintenance organizations**
- **Community mental health centers**
- **Hospital psychiatry departments and outpatient clinics**
- **University- or medical school-affiliated programs**
- **State hospital outpatient clinics**
- **Social service agencies**
- **Private clinics and facilities**
- **Employee assistance programs**
- **Local medical and/or psychiatric societies**



Visit the NY State Online Autism Resource <http://www.nyacts.com> where you can learn more about these and many other services and other support services for individuals with ASD and their families.

# ASD SUPPORT SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## **Ohel Children's Home and Family Services**

4510 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11204  
(718) 686-3202

Contact: David Mandel, CEO

### **Services:**

- Camp
- Day Services/Day Habilitation
- In-Home Services
- Respite Services
- Waiver Services
- Counseling
- Evaluation, Intake and Referrals
- Parent Advocacy and Training
- Recreation
- Family Support Services
- Crisis Intervention
- Residential Services
- Service Coordination

## **Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services**

510 Gates Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11216  
(718) 346-5900, Ext. 13  
Contact: William Green

### **Services:**

- Residential Services
- Service Coordination

## **Human Care Services for Family and Children**

1042 38th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219  
(718) 854-2747

Contact: Devora Thau

### **Services:**

- Day Services/Day Habilitation
- Family Support Services
- Financial Assistance
- Housing/Individual Support Services
- In-Home Services
- Residential
- Service Coordination

## **Community Options New York, Inc.**

161-165 Woodruff Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
(718) 940-8600  
Contact: Josephine Calder

### **Services:**

- Day Services/Day Habilitation
- Residential Services
- Employment Services
- In-Home Services
- Service Coordination

## **Lisa Beth Gerstman Camp**

### **Park Slope Armory YMCA**

361 15th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
(212) 912-2580  
(212) 912-2587

Contact: Jamel Davis

### **Services:**

- Special needs 3-week camp

## **My Time Inc.**

9603 Flatlands Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11236  
(917) 933-9875

Contact: Denise Jordan

### **Services:**

- Family Support Services
- Parent Advocacy and Training

## **Elmy's Special Services**

163 Van Buren Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11221  
(718) 789-7539

Contact: Ray Knights, Executive Director

### **Services:**

- Medical Service Coordination
- Non-Medicaid Service Coordination

## **Adult Resources Center**

1145 East 55th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
(718) 531-7500  
Contact: Francois Ledee

## **Brooklyn Autism Center**

57 Willoughby Street  
3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 554-1027

## **Yeled V'Yalda Headstart (Main Office)**

1312 38th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
(718) 686-3700



New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

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# Senator Kevin Parker

## *April is National Autism Awareness Month*

21<sup>st</sup> Senate District

### District Office

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Brooklyn, NY 11226-5107  
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### Albany Office

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Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2580

Email: [parker@nysenate.gov](mailto:parker@nysenate.gov)

Web: [parker.nysenate.gov](http://parker.nysenate.gov)

## Autism is on the Rise

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are the fastest growing developmental disability. Recent studies indicate that they may affect as many as 1 out of every 88 American children. Because less than half of these children are diagnosed before starting school, it's likely that a child you know has a spectrum disorder that hasn't yet been diagnosed.

ASDs affect peoples' ability to socialize and to communicate, and often cause a child to display unusual or repetitive behaviors or interests. ASDs are a lifelong condition. Their effects on one's ability to learn and interact can vary from mild to severe. Early treatment and support are crucial to minimize limitations and maximize success.



**ALWAYS**  
**UNIQUE**  
**TOTALLY**  
**INTELLIGENT**  
**SOMETIMES**  
**MYSTERIOUS**