

Parent to Parent

Whether you have long suspected that your child has autism, or it has come as a complete surprise, a diagnosis of autism and autism spectrum disorder can come as a tremendous shock. Parents react very differently, but most need information and time to understand what it means for the future of their family and their child's future.

Many parents want to talk to someone else who has 'walked the walk', who can tell them how they survived the knowledge that their child has unique challenges. Among the staff and the members of the Autism Society of B.C. (ASBC), there are many people whose families have survived and flourished. They are willing to share their experiences with you or just listen if you need to talk to someone who understands. We also have families from many cultural and linguistic backgrounds who are willing to help.

In some communities, families run ASBC parent groups. In meetings, they invite speakers to help give a focus for an informative discussion. Parents tell us that they gain the best tips for helping their children from other parents. If your son or daughter is older, they may be interested in a group of adults with autism who specialize in self-advocacy.

An ASBC Information Worker is usually the person you need to talk to when you first call ASBC. Our Workers can send out our wide range of excellent information packages and can put you in touch with other parents. For the same services in Northern BC and on Vancouver Island, you can also call our Branch Coordinators.

If you decide to become a member of ASBC, you can borrow materials from the ASBC library with its wide selection of autism related materials, including books and videos. Member outside the Lower Mainland can telephone or e-mail our librarian and she will mail library materials to you free of charge. Be sure to enquire about our many other services available to ASBC members.

Also, a recent addition, our website Discussion Forum, offers a unique avenue for parents or adults with autism to communicate with other like-minded individuals throughout the province. For more information, visit our website at: <http://www.autismbc.ca> or feel free to telephone or e-mail us if you require further assistance.

Above all else, we are an organization founded by parents in order to make lives better for people with autism and our board is still run largely by parents and self-advocates.

Please give us a call.