



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RE:** Ben-El Plans Autism Support Group for Parents

Understanding and coming to terms with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is very difficult for parents with minor-aged children diagnosed with the pervasive developmental disorder known as autism. A four week program has been designed by Ben-El Child and Family Center to help parents understand a wide span of functional levels of autism including non-verbal to highly verbal children. Ben-El is a not-for-profit organization serving the mental health needs of children and families in Logan and Champaign Counties.

Sessions will be led by Diana Martin, L.P.C. of the Ben-El Center. "Children with autism and their families deserve good care and intervention and Ben-El is demonstrating cutting edge collaboration with area organizations and I am pleased to be a part of this," says Martin.

Topics will include an overview of autism, behavior management, factors related to autism, co-existing disorders, intervention strategies and techniques, crisis needs, parenting in healthy ways, helpful resources, working with schools, networking to build support, and more.

Meetings will be held every Tuesday in November (6, 13, 20, 27) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ben-El Child and Family Center, 1150 Scioto Street, Suite 200 (Route 36 entrance to the CRSI building) in Urbana. To enroll, please call Ben-El at 937-652-4555.