



— THE AUTISTIC INTELLECT NONPROFIT CORPORATION (TAINC) —

A PARENT'S COMPLETE GUIDE

The Autism Journey Begins Here

Hope • Resources • Advocacy • Community

"Because no family should have to navigate autism alone."

STEM SATURDAYS

Children explore science, robotics & engineering

PARENT SESSIONS

Professional support while children thrive

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bubble Run, Summer Bash & the annual Gala

Support & Resources Always Free to Families

"The Autistic Intellect was not built from theory. It was built from lived experience, sleepless nights, and the unwavering belief that our children deserve every opportunity to thrive."

— Alicia Grant-Sykes, Founder & President, TAINC

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LETTER FROM ALICIA

Dear Parent,

If this guide has found its way into your hands, chances are you have recently heard words that may have changed the course of your family's journey:

| "Your child has autism." |

I remember that moment. I remember the questions. I remember the uncertainty. I remember wondering what life would look like for my son and whether I would be able to give him everything he needed to thrive.

I remember leaving appointments with more questions than answers and feeling as though I had been handed a diagnosis without a roadmap.

What I did not know then was that autism would teach me some of the greatest lessons of my life. It would teach me patience. It would teach me advocacy. It would teach me how to celebrate victories that others may overlook.

Most importantly, it would teach me that my son was never broken. He was brilliant. He simply needed support that looked different from what the world expected.

Today, my son continues to inspire every part of the work we do through The Autistic Intellect. This organization was founded because I never wanted another parent to feel as alone as I once felt. Inside these pages, you will find information about therapies, educational resources, financial assistance programs, support services, advocacy tools, community events, and opportunities to connect with families who understand what you are experiencing.

More importantly, you will find hope. Because autism is not the end of a dream. It is often the beginning of discovering a different path toward it.

Your child still has gifts. Your child still has purpose. Your child still has dreams waiting to unfold. And you do not have to walk this journey alone.

On behalf of The Autistic Intellect Nonprofit Corporation (TAINC), welcome. We are honored to walk beside you.

With love and understanding,



Alicia Grant-Sykes

Founder & President

The Autistic Intellect Nonprofit Corporation | TAINC

BEFORE YOU TURN THE PAGE

Take a deep breath.

The days immediately following a diagnosis can feel overwhelming. You may be carrying fear. You may be carrying confusion. You may be carrying grief, relief, hope, or uncertainty. You may be carrying all of those emotions at the same time.

Whatever you are feeling right now is okay.

Before you continue reading, we want you to know something important:
Your child is still the same child they were yesterday.

The same smile. The same laugh. The same personality. The same heart.

The diagnosis did not change who they are. It simply provides a name for some of the challenges they may face and opens doors to supports that can help them thrive.

Your child is not broken. Your child is not less capable. Your child is not defined by a diagnosis. Your child is wonderfully unique and filled with potential.

A first word.

A new skill.

A successful school day.

A moment of independence.

A new friendship.

Celebrate them all.

This guide was created to help you navigate the road ahead with confidence, information, and support. Most importantly, it was created to remind you that there is an entire community standing beside you.

Welcome. You belong here.

WHY THIS GUIDE WAS CREATED

If we could sit across from you right now, we would probably start by asking how you're doing. Not how your child is doing. Not how therapy is going. Not how school is going.

How are YOU doing?

Because we know how easy it is to disappear into appointments, evaluations, paperwork, phone calls, referrals, insurance claims, and endless Google searches.

When TAINC's founder received her son's diagnosis, she felt like she had been dropped into a world she knew nothing about. Suddenly there were terms she had never heard before.

ABA. • IEP. • Occupational Therapy. • Sensory Processing.

Speech Therapy. • Medicaid Waivers. • Evaluations. • Progress Reports.

She was expected to make decisions that felt incredibly important, yet she didn't feel like she had enough information to make them. She wasn't looking for another list of referrals. She was looking

for someone to explain what those referrals meant. She was looking for someone who understood.

That experience is why this guide exists. TAINC created it because we know there are parents sitting in waiting rooms right now feeling overwhelmed. Because we know there are parents wondering if they are doing enough. Because we know there are parents who need someone to remind them that they are not failing.

You do not have to know everything today. You do not have to have all the answers today. You simply need to take the next step.

One step at a time.

One resource at a time.

One victory at a time.

And every step of the way, we want you to know that you are not walking alone.

WHO WE ARE

The Story Behind The Autistic Intellect

“The Autistic Intellect was not built from theory. It was built from lived experience, sleepless nights, difficult decisions, hard-earned victories, and the unwavering belief that our children deserve every opportunity to thrive.”

The Autistic Intellect Nonprofit Corporation (TAINC) was founded by Alicia Grant-Sykes following the diagnosis of her son Austin. Like so many parents, she left her son's evaluation with a folder of paperwork and a heart full of questions. She knew she had to find answers. She knew she had to become an advocate. And she knew that if she ever found her footing on this path, she would reach back and help other families find theirs.

Austin's journey — through diagnosis, uncertainty, therapy, growth, and discovery — became the foundation of everything TAINC stands for. His brilliance, his resilience, and his story are the reason this community exists.

What Makes Us Different?

Other organizations provide referrals.	We provide relationships.
Other organizations provide information.	We provide understanding.
Other organizations provide resources.	We provide hope.

Our support, programs, and resources are always free to families. Some community events include a participation fee — because every dollar raised goes directly back to funding the services that help families like yours.

What We Offer

- Parent workshops with professionals and service providers
- STEM programs where children discover their strengths
- Financial assistance for families facing barriers to therapy
- Family support through every season of the journey
- Community events that celebrate joy and inclusion
- Resource navigation so no parent has to figure it out alone

YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR COMMUNITY

One of the hardest parts of this journey can be feeling like nobody understands.

The sleepless nights.

The worries.

The appointments.

The celebrations that seem small to others but feel enormous to you.

The fierce love you carry for your child every single day.

| I want you to know something. You belong here. |

Not because your child received a diagnosis. But because you deserve support. You deserve information. You deserve encouragement. You deserve a place where you do not have to explain every part of your journey.

TAINC was built by a parent who understood that experience. Everything we do begins with one question: “What would have helped families like yours in those early days?” Then we work to provide exactly that.

You have found your community. And we are glad you're here.

Support & Resources Always Free to Families

Ways to Connect

- Parent Support Sessions
- STEM Saturdays
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Events
- Social Media — Facebook & Instagram
- theautisticintellectnonprofitcorporation.com for current programs and updates

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and experiences the world around them. Autism is called a “spectrum” because it presents differently in every individual.

A diagnosis is not a ceiling. It is a starting point — a doorway to understanding your child more deeply and to accessing supports that can help them thrive.

Common Signs Parents May Notice

- Delayed speech or language development
- Difficulty with back-and-forth conversation
- Challenges with social interaction or making friends
- Repetitive behaviors or strong attachment to routines
- Sensory sensitivities — to sound, light, texture, or taste
- Intense focus on specific interests
- Differences in eye contact or facial expression

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT AUTISM

× **MYTH:** Autism limits what my child can become.

💡 **FACT:** A diagnosis does not determine your child's future.

× **MYTH:** My child doesn't want friends.

💡 **FACT:** Many autistic individuals desire connection but may communicate differently.

× **MYTH:** Autism means low intelligence.

💡 **FACT:** Intelligence cannot be measured by communication style alone.

× **MYTH:** I caused my child's autism.

💡 **FACT:** You did not cause your child's autism. There is nothing you did or failed to do.

× **MYTH:** There is no hope.

✓ **FACT:** There is always hope, growth, learning, and opportunity.

FIRST STEPS AFTER DIAGNOSIS

Receiving a diagnosis can feel like the beginning of an entirely new journey. Here are some first steps to help you find your footing.

Your First Steps

- ☐ Take a deep breath. Give yourself time to process.
- ☐ Read this guide one section at a time.
- ☐ Create a folder for evaluations, reports, and records.
- ☐ Ask your pediatrician about therapy referrals.
- ☐ Contact your school district if your child is school-aged.
- ☐ Learn about Medicaid, insurance, and funding options.
- ☐ Reach out to TAINC for guidance at (601) 896-5390.
- ☐ Join a support community.
- ☐ Celebrate one thing your child did today.
- ☐ Give yourself grace.

You do not need to do everything today. You simply need to take the next step.

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Please don't spend so much time worrying about who your child may never become that you miss discovering who they already are.

Some of my greatest lessons came when I stopped focusing on what was missing and started paying attention to what was already there.

Their smile.

Their curiosity.

Their personality.

Their strengths.

Their brilliance.

Your child is more than a report.

More than an evaluation.

More than a diagnosis.

Your child is still your child.

And that is enough for today.



SECTION 2: THERAPY & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Give parents a place to start.

Navigating the world of autism therapies can feel overwhelming, especially in those first weeks after diagnosis. The following pages introduce you to the most common therapies used to support autistic children, along with local Mississippi providers to help you get started.

You do not need to pursue every therapy at once. Work with your child's evaluation team to prioritize based on your child's individual needs.

ABA THERAPY

A Note From Our Founder

When ABA was first recommended for our son, our founder had no idea what it meant. She was handed a brochure and a list of providers and sent on her way. What she wishes someone had

told her then is what she wants to tell you now: ABA is not one-size-fits-all. Ask questions. Be an active participant in your child's program. You know your child best.

What Is ABA Therapy?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior. It uses positive reinforcement strategies to help children develop communication, social, and daily living skills while reducing behaviors that may interfere with learning.

Signs Your Child May Benefit

- Challenges with communication or social interaction
- Repetitive behaviors that interfere with daily life
- Difficulty with transitions or changes in routine
- Challenges with self-care or daily living skills

Questions to Ask Providers

- What does a typical session look like for my child's age?
- How do you involve parents in the therapy process?
- What certifications do your therapists hold?
- Do you accept Medicaid or my insurance plan?

ABA Provider Directory

Jackson / Flowood / Ridgeland

Mississippi Behavior Consultants

Phone: (601) 922-5100 Web: msbehavior.com
Ages: 2–21 Insurance: Medicaid, BCBS, United

ABA Centers of Mississippi

Phone: (601) 956-8080 Web: abacenters.com/ms
Ages: 18 mo–18 yrs Insurance: Most major plans

Behavior Frontiers — Jackson

Phone: (601) 487-2200 Web: behaviorfrontiers.com
Ages: 2–18 Insurance: Medicaid, TRICARE

Madison / Brandon / Pearl / Clinton

Learning Tree ABA

Phone: (601) 664-0090 Web: learningtreeaba.com
Ages: Toddler–Adult Insurance: Medicaid, BCBS

Autism Learning Partners

Phone: (601) 790-5880 Web: autismlearningpartners.com
Ages: All ages Insurance: Most major insurance

Hattiesburg / Gulf Coast / Tupelo / Southaven **Southern ABA Services**

Phone: (228) 304-5100 **Web:** southernaba.com
Ages: 2–21 **Insurance:** Medicaid, TRICARE, BCBS

Triumph ABA — Tupelo

Phone: (662) 840-7700 **Web:** triumphaba.com

Ages: 2–18 **Insurance:** Medicaid, UHC

Note: Always verify insurance and waitlist status directly with providers.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

A Note From Our Founder

Occupational therapy opened doors that our founder didn't even know existed for her son. His OT helped him with sensory processing, fine motor skills, and the daily tasks that most children do without thinking.

What Is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy helps children develop the skills they need for everyday activities. For autistic children, OT often addresses sensory processing challenges, fine motor skills, self-care skills, and feeding challenges.

Areas OT Can Address

- Sensory Processing and Sensory Integration
- Fine Motor Skills (handwriting, scissors, zippers)
- Feeding Therapy (texture sensitivity, mealtime challenges)
- Daily Living Skills (dressing, grooming, organization)

OT Provider Directory

Jackson / Metro Area

Children's of Mississippi — OT

Phone: (601) 984-6060 **Web:** umc.edu/childrens

Ages: Birth–18 **Insurance:** Medicaid, Most Insurance

KidzTherapyServices

Phone: (601) 956-9400 **Web:** kidztherapy.com

Ages: Birth–21 **Insurance:** Most major plans

Gulf Coast / Hattiesburg

Singing River Health — Rehab

Phone: (228) 809-5000 **Web:** singingriverhealth.com

Ages: Pediatric & Adult **Insurance:** Medicaid, Medicare

TherapyforKids— Hattiesburg

Phone: (601) 264-1260 **Web:** therapyforkids-ms.com

Ages: Birth–18 **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS

Byram, MS — New Clinic

You May Speak Therapy — OT Services

Phone: intake@ymshealthservices.com **Web:** youmayspeaktherapy.com

Ages: Ages 3–21 **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS, Cigna, and more

Address: 5600 I-55 South, Suite B, Byram, MS 39272 | **Hours:** Monday–Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

You May Speak also provides occupational therapy using multi-sensory approaches to support children’s development, daily living skills, and sensory processing needs.

SPEECH THERAPY

A Note From Our Founder

Communication is connection. For our founder’s son, speech therapy was not just about words — it was about helping him find his voice and be understood.

What Is Speech Therapy?

Speech-language therapy helps children develop communication skills including speech delays, social communication, AAC devices, and feeding challenges related to oral motor development.

Areas Speech Therapy Can Address

- Speech Delays and Articulation
- Language Development (understanding and using language)
- AAC Devices (tablets, communication boards, apps)
- Social Communication (conversation, turn-taking)
- Feeding Therapy (chewing, swallowing, food textures)

Speech Therapy Provider Directory

Jackson / Metro Area

UMMC—SpeechPathology

Phone: (601) 984-5800 **Web:** umc.edu/speech

Ages: All ages **Insurance:** Medicaid, Most Insurance

Achieving More Speech Therapy

Phone: (601)919-6551 **Web:** achievingmore-ms.com
Ages: Toddler–Teen **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS, UHC
Gulf Coast / Statewide

Therapy for Kids — Statewide

Phone: (601)264-1260 **Web:** therapyforkids-ms.com
Ages: Birth–21 **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS
Byram, MS — New Clinic

You May Speak Therapy

Phone: intake@ymshealthservices.com **Web:** youmayspeaktherapy.com
Ages: Ages 3–21 **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS, Cigna, and more
Address: 5600 I-55 South, Suite B, Byram, MS 39272 | **Hours:** Monday–Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

You May Speak is a new multi-disciplinary clinic offering speech, occupational, and dyslexia therapy services. ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists with specialized expertise in autism and special education.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

What Is Physical Therapy?

Physical therapy helps children develop strength, coordination, balance, and gross motor skills. For autistic children, PT can address challenges with movement, motor planning, physical fitness, and body awareness.

PT Provider Directory

Jackson / Metro Area

Kidz Therapy Services — PT

Phone: (601)956-9400 **Web:** kidztherapy.com
Ages: Birth–21 **Insurance:** Medicaid, Most major plans

Blair E. Batson — Pediatric PT

Phone: (601)984-1000 **Web:** umc.edu/batson
Ages: Birth–18 **Insurance:** Medicaid, BCBS

Gulf Coast

Singing River Health — Pediatric PT

Phone: (228)809-5000 **Web:** singingriverhealth.com

Ages: Pediatric **Insurance:** Medicaid, Medicare, BCBS

EQUINE THERAPY

What Is Equine Therapy?

Equine-assisted therapy uses interactions with horses to support the social, emotional, and physical development of children with special needs. Many autistic children respond beautifully to the rhythmic movement of horses and the non-judgmental nature of equine relationships.

Benefits for Autistic Children

- Emotional regulation and calming
- Building confidence and self-esteem
- Improving balance and core strength
- Developing communication and social skills

Equine Therapy Programs in Mississippi

Central / North Mississippi

ReinsofHope— TherapeuticRiding

Phone: (601) 829-0740 **Web:** reinsoghope-ms.org

Ages: Ages 3+ **Insurance:** Private pay / some grants

Riding to the Top Therapeutic Center

Phone: (662) 844-4400 **Web:** ridingtothetop.org

Ages: All ages **Insurance:** Scholarship programs available

South Mississippi

GulfCoastTherapeuticRiding

Phone: (228) 832-5800 **Web:** gulfcoasttherapeuticriding.org

Ages: Ages 4+ **Insurance:** Donations / sliding scale

COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health support is not only for autistic children. It is for entire families. Parents, siblings, and caregivers all carry the weight of this journey. Seeking counseling is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of wisdom.

For Parents

- Individual counseling to process emotions and develop coping strategies
- Marriage and couples counseling to strengthen your partnership
- Family therapy to support all members of the household
- Parent support groups to connect with families who understand

For Children

- Behavioral counseling to address anxiety and emotional regulation
- Play therapy — particularly effective for younger children
- Social skills groups to practice interaction in a supported environment

Mental Health Resources

Statewide

Mississippi Dept. of Mental Health

Phone: (601) 359-1288 Web: dmh.ms.gov

Ages: All ages Insurance: Medicaid, sliding scale

Psychology Associates of MS

Phone: (601) 372-0660 Web: psychassocms.com

Ages: Child & Adult Insurance: Most major insurance

The Autistic Intellect — Parent Sessions

Phone: (601) 896-5390 Web: theautisticintellectnonprofitcorporation.com

Ages: Parents & Caregivers Insurance: Free — No Cost to Families

Autism Society of Mississippi

Phone: (601) 987-5686 Web: autismsocietyms.org

Ages: Families Insurance: Free to join

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

One of the most important steps after noticing developmental differences in your child is obtaining a comprehensive psychological evaluation. A qualified evaluation can confirm a diagnosis of autism, ADHD, or other developmental differences, and provides the documentation needed to access school services, therapy, and funding programs.

What a Psychological Evaluation Can Assess

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Developmental delays and intellectual disability
- Learning disorders (dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia)

- Gifted evaluation
- STAT — Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children

Psychological Evaluation Provider Directory

Madison, MS

Brennan Behavior Group

Phone: (504)833-6730 **Web:** brennanbehavior.com

Ages: 12 months – 14 years **Insurance:** Contact for insurance details

Fax: (504) 833-6731 | **Email:** frontdesk@brennanbehavior.com

Brennan Behavior Group is a full-service psychology clinic in Madison, MS offering comprehensive psychological evaluations for autism, ADHD, and developmental disorders. Their multidisciplinary team includes licensed clinical psychologists, BCBAs, social workers, speech pathologists, and certified teachers.

Services Offered at Brennan Behavior Group

- Autism Diagnostic Evaluations — using gold standard tools including the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)
- ADHD Evaluations — comprehensive assessment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- STAT — Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers (offered at Madison location only)
- Psychological and Psychoeducational Testing
- ABA Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Individual, couples, and family therapy

Age range served: 12 months to 14 years for autism and developmental evaluations.

Early evaluation leads to early intervention. Early intervention leads to better outcomes. Do not wait to seek an evaluation if you have concerns.

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

The Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An Individualized Education Program is a legally binding document created for eligible students with disabilities. It outlines your child's current level of performance, annual goals, the services the school will provide, and how progress will be measured.

How to Request an IEP Evaluation

- Submit a written request to your child's school principal or special education coordinator
- The school has 60 calendar days to complete the evaluation
- You must provide written consent before the evaluation begins
- You have the right to an independent educational evaluation if you disagree

Your Rights as a Parent

- You are an equal member of the IEP team
- You must be invited to and can bring support to all IEP meetings
- You have the right to review all records related to your child

IEP vs. 504 Plan — What's the Difference?

	IEP	504 Plan
Law	IDEA	Section 504 of Rehab Act
Eligibility	Disability affecting education	Disability limiting major life activity
Provides	Specialized instruction + services	Accommodations only
Goals	Yes — specific & measurable	Not required

Mississippi Department of Education Resources

- Office of Special Education: (601) 359-3498
- Website: mdek12.org/OSE
- Disability Rights Mississippi: (601) 968-0600 | drms.org



INSURANCE & FUNDING

Understanding your financial options is one of the most important steps you can take.

The cost of autism therapies and services can feel overwhelming. But there are more funding options available than most families realize. This section outlines the most common resources in Mississippi.

Mississippi Medicaid

Medicaid is a state and federally funded health insurance program that covers many autism-related services including ABA therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and behavioral health services.

How to Apply

- Apply online at domonline.dhs.ms.gov
- Visit your local Department of Human Services (DHS) office
- Call the Medicaid helpline: (800) 421-2408

Katie Beckett Program (TEFRA)

The Katie Beckett Program allows children with disabilities to qualify for Medicaid based on the child's income alone — not the parents' income. This means families who earn too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid may still be eligible for their child.

- Child must be under age 19
- Child must have a qualifying disability (autism qualifies)
- Contact: Mississippi Division of Medicaid | (800) 421-2408 | medicaid.ms.gov

Grant Directory

The following organizations offer financial assistance to families of autistic children.

Organization	What They Help Pay For
Autism Care Today	Therapy grants for ABA, OT, Speech
National Autism Association	Safety equipment and safety grants
United Healthcare Children's Foundation	Medical and therapy expenses
Variety Children's Charity	Adaptive equipment and services
ACT Today (Autism Care & Treatment)	Uncompensated therapy services
Mississippi Council on Dev. Disabilities	State-level support programs
The Autistic Intellect — Therapy Assistance	Local therapy cost assistance

When you are ready to apply for assistance, TAINC can help guide you through the process. You do not have to navigate funding alone. Call us at (601) 896-5390.



ANNUAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Building community, one moment at a time.

At The Autistic Intellect, our programs were designed with one goal in mind: to ensure that no child feels unseen and no parent feels alone.

All programs, sessions, and events are completely free to every family we serve. Some community events like the Bubble Run include a participation fee — every dollar raised goes back to funding free services.

STEM Saturdays

Bi-Monthly STEM Exploration Program

STEM Saturdays were created because we believe every autistic child has a brilliant mind waiting to be ignited. Children explore science, technology, engineering, creativity, and problem-solving in an environment built for their success.

What Children Experience

- Hands-on Science experiments
- Engineering challenges and building projects
- Robotics and technology exploration
- Creative design and construction
- Teamwork and collaborative problem-solving

Benefits

- Increased confidence and self-esteem
- Peer socialization in a supported environment
- Discovery of individual strengths and interests

In STEM, there are no wrong answers. There is only discovery. And every child who walks through our doors is a discoverer.

Parent Support Sessions

While children participate in STEM activities, parents are not left in the waiting room. Parent Support Sessions run simultaneously, offering a dedicated space designed specifically for you.

What Parents Receive

- Professional guidance from therapists, educators, and specialists
- Educational workshops on therapies, advocacy, and resources
- Information on services, programs, and funding opportunities
- Emotional support in a community of parents who understand
- Networking opportunities with other autism families

For many parents, this is one of the few moments where they can focus on themselves while knowing their child is safe, engaged, and supported.

Summer Bash

A Celebration of Family

Every family deserves moments of pure joy. The Summer Bash is our annual celebration designed to create exactly that — a day of laughter, connection, and memory-making in an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and built around the needs of our community.

- Water activities and outdoor fun
- Games and entertainment for all ages
- Family-friendly inclusive programming
- Community resource information

Bubble Run

Autism Awareness Month Celebration — April

Run. Play. Belong.

Every April, TAINC hosts our annual Bubble Run in honor of Autism Awareness Month. This is not just a run. It is a statement: our community belongs here, in the light, celebrated, and surrounded by joy.

The Bubble Run includes a participation fee — and every dollar raised goes directly back to funding the free programs, resources, and support services that families depend on throughout the year.

- Sensory-friendly outdoor event
- Family participation at every ability level
- Music and entertainment
- Vendor village with community resources

Champagne & Flame Gala

The Champagne & Flame Gala is TAINC's premier annual fundraising event. Every ticket sold. Every table sponsored. Every bid placed. All of it goes directly toward our mission of helping families access the therapy and services their children deserve.

Every ticket sold helps a family access services. Every sponsorship creates opportunity. Every dollar raised changes a child's story.



VOLUNTEERING WITH PURPOSE

When you are ready, we welcome you.

There comes a moment for many families on this journey when the weight begins to lift just a little. In that moment, many parents find themselves thinking: “I want to help another family feel what I feel right now.”

“When you are ready, we welcome you to become part of the village that supports other families. Some volunteer for an hour. Others help at events. Some simply offer encouragement to another parent who needs to hear, ‘You can do this.’ Every act of kindness matters.”

Volunteer Opportunities

- Event support at STEM Saturdays, Bubble Run, Summer Bash, and Gala
- Parent peer support — sharing your story with new families
- Registration and welcome tables at events
- Resource fairs and community outreach
- Fundraising and development support

To learn more about volunteering, visit theautisticintellectnonprofitcorporation.com or call (601) 896-5390.



TRUSTED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Organizations and tools TAINC recommends for autism families.

TAINC is committed to connecting families with the most reliable, reputable, and family-centered resources available. The following organizations, books, and tools are independently produced and have been identified as valuable supports for the autism community.

TAINC does not receive compensation for any of the recommendations on this page. These are shared solely because they help families.

National Autism Organizations

- Autism Society of America — autism-society.org
- Autism Speaks — autismspeaks.org
- National Autism Association — nationalautismassociation.org
- ACT Today (Autism Care & Treatment) — act-today.org
- Autism Science Foundation — autismsciencefoundation.org

Mississippi-Specific Resources

- Autism Society of Mississippi — autismsocietyms.org | (601) 987-5686
- Mississippi Department of Mental Health — dmh.ms.gov | (601) 359-1288
- Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Special Education — mdek12.org/OSE
- Disability Rights Mississippi — drms.org | (601) 968-0600
- Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center — msparentcenter.org

Books for Parents

- The Autism Mom's Survival Guide by Susan Senator
- Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew by Ellen Notbohm
- Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism by Barry Prizant
- The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: What Every Parent Needs to Know — American Academy of Pediatrics

Books for Children

- All My Stripes: A Story for Children With Autism by Shaina Rudolph
- A Friend Like Simon by Kate Gaynor

- The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh by Supriya Kelkar
- Different — A Great Thing to Be! by Margery Cuyler

Online Communities & Support

- Autism Society of Mississippi — Facebook Community Groups
- Autism Parenting Magazine — autismparentingmagazine.com
- IEP Advocates and Special Education Resources — wrightslaw.com
- TAINC Community Events and Parent Sessions — theautisticintellectnonprofitcorporation.com

You do not have to find these resources alone. TAINC is here to help you navigate every step. Call us at (601) 896-5390 or visit theautisticintellectnonprofitcorporation.com.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The parents TAINC serves are extraordinary.

They fight every day without fanfare.

They celebrate victories the world may not understand.

They advocate in IEP meetings and cry in parking lots.

They love their children with everything they have.

If that is you — you have found your community.

TAINC sees you. TAINC hears you. You are not alone.

TAINC exists because no family should have to navigate autism without support, without information, and without community. Whether you are one day past diagnosis or ten years into this journey, we are here.

Reach out to us at any time. Attend one of our events. Bring your questions. Bring your worries. Bring your child.

We will walk beside you.

The Autistic Intellect Nonprofit Corporation (TAINC)

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STANDING BESIDE EVERY FAMILY

Our Promise To You

From the day of diagnosis to every milestone that follows — we are here.

- ✓ We promise to continue **advocating** for your child and every family we serve.
- ✓ We promise to continue **educating** families with information that truly helps.
- ✓ We promise to continue **creating opportunities** for children to discover their brilliance.
- ✓ We promise to remind you always that **autism does not limit possibility.**

*"And above all, we promise that you will
never have to walk this journey alone."*

I see you. • I hear you. • You are not alone.

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Support & Resources Free