

Digital Imagery Facilitates the 3S's

By Dot Lucci, MEd, CAGS



Aspire is a pioneer in using technology in our programming for children and teens. We have used a variety of technologies over the years as technology is a natural fit for our population given their interests and learning styles. We can either retreat from technology because of our fear that our participants will become obsessed or embrace it as a teaching tool. We have decided to embrace it and our teens have been active in the development phases of some of

Now accepting applications for Spring groups

Call for more details!

Find out more information on [our website](#)

Apply for the Internship Program!

The Aspire Internship program is accepting applications for the spring cycle!

The Internship program provides on-going job support for the 12-week spring cycle. Interns have been carefully matched with companies like:

- Liberty Mutual
- Safelite
- Insurance Auto Auctions International
- Boston Public Market
- WGBH

[For more information and to apply visit the website.](#)

Aspire Child Winter Event!

We'll come together to share some inside activities, with the hope that we can also enjoy some snowy activities outside. In groups, we'll bake and decorate cookies and have the option to participate in arts and crafts or game time. If the weather allows, we'll talk about practice, and enjoy some outdoor fun making snowmen and/or sledding. Staff will be there to provide in the moment social skills feedback, stress management support, self-awareness cueing, and sensory strategies to help us participate in whatever activities the environment allows.

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Lurie Center for Autism, Lexington
1:00-4:00 pm

Siblings are invited to attend!
\$50 for 1 child
\$80 for 2 children
\$100 for 3 children

These events are open to individuals, and their siblings, ages 5-15 who have successfully completed Aspire child programming within the last three years or are currently participating. Email [Elise Wulff](#) for questions of eligibility. Parents may leave their child on-site. To register your child, please email MGHAspire@partners.org.

Save the Date!

Aspire Open House & Reunion
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Independent School Curling League - Starts December 1, 2016

About Aspire

Aspire is dedicated to providing children, teens, and adults with a high cognitive autism spectrum disorder or a related profile with the knowledge and skills necessary to make social connections and develop independence leading to successful and fulfilling lives.

MGH Aspire
1 Maguire Road
Lexington, MA 02421
p: 781-860-1900
f: 781-860-1920
mghaspire@partners.org

[Aspire Website](#)

[Aspire Internships](#)

Aspire is a program of
Massachusetts General Hospital
and Massachusetts General
Hospital for Children

Stay Connected!





Scott McLeod, *Aspire's* Executive Director, and [Broomstones Curling Club](#) have combined forces to create a ten session curling league in Wayland, MA. If you are interested in participating with us, please contact Dr. McLeod at dmcLeod@mgh.harvard.edu. Last year Willow Hill School and Chapman Farm School participated in the inaugural season. It was a great success. Students enjoyed learning a new sport and socializing with each other. The sessions run during the school day.

Aspire's Quarterly Parent Group Series: FREE!

Monday, December 5th, 5:00pm

Asperger's & Parenting: 20 Tips for Limit Setting & Problem Solving

To register, please email MGHAspire@partners.org.

Aspire Speaking Engagements

- **January 21, 2017**, *Leslie O'Brien, LICSW*
 - AANE 2017 Benefits Conference: Aspire Internship Program
- **January 22, 2017**, *Scott McLeod, PhD*
 - Bressler Center: Social Skills Training for Youth with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder
- **February 15, 2017**, *Scott McLeod, PhD*
 - Lurie Center for Autism: Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety

Research Opportunities

Lurie Center for Autism

The Lurie Center for Autism at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children is looking for participants for their currently enrolling studies! For additional information about study requirements and study procedures, please contact Dr. Christopher McDougle's or Dr. Ann Neumeyer's study staff at 781-860-1711 or LurieCenterResearch@partners.org.

- **Children's Autism Metabolome Project (CAMP)** - The Lurie Center is enrolling

children ages 18 to 48 months who are in the process of getting evaluated for an autism spectrum disorder or developmental disorder, as well as typically developing children. This research study is being conducted to find out if a specific blood test is effective in the early detection of autism spectrum disorder. Participants are compensated for their time.

- **Mirtazapine Treatment of Anxiety in Autism** - The Lurie Center is conducting a study designed to evaluate the effects of mirtazapine in children with autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder or PDD not otherwise specified. Participants must be between the ages of 5 and 17 with difficulties with anxiety. Participants must have no significant medical illness and not have had a previous adequate trial of mirtazapine. Participants will receive study medication and all study related evaluations at no charge.
- **Investigation of Neuroinflammation in Autism** - Seeking men aged 18-40 years with and without autism to participate in an investigation of the structure and function of the brain of adults with and without autism using MR-PET scans. Participants are compensated for their time.

To learn more, please visit [our website](#).

The Bressler Clinical and Research Program

ASD Namenda Study Taking Place at MGH. Has your child ever been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)? Does he or she have trouble communicating? Does he or she have problems reading social cues? Is your child 8-17 years old? Massachusetts General Hospital is conducting a research study using Namenda (memantine) to see if the medication has any effects on symptoms. The study also includes a brain scan before and after treatment to help us understand the functional and chemical characteristics of the brain in children and adolescents with ASD. 12 weeks of treatment with study medication or placebo-2 proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy scans of your child's brain Your child will receive monetary compensation for participating. If you are interested in learning about this research study at MGH, please call the study coordinator, Abby, at 617-724-7079.
