



Spotlight on Profound Autism

By Janice Huber

Although I came across multiple articles, news stories, and social media posts related to Autism Awareness and Acceptance during the month of April, I only saw one post bringing awareness to profound autism. That may be understandable since the use of “profound autism” to identify a subset of the autistic population in scientific literature just happened in 2021. For the first time last year, the CDC released data on the occurrence of *profound autism* within the autistic population – 26.7% of people with autism have profound autism. That’s a quarter of the autistic population. People with profound autism generally require 24-hour care 7 days a week for their lifetime. The needs of profoundly autistic persons *and their caregivers* are often overlooked in the media, in advocacy efforts, and in research. One organization is trying the change that, the non-profit [Profound Autism Alliance\(PAA\)](#). The PAA website has a variety of initiatives to support family members; the [Sibling Action Network](#), [Caregivers Connected](#), and [The Dignity Project](#) to name a few. Touchstone ABA is a member of the Council for Autism Providers (CASP) which advocates for all autistic persons. Some of our behavior analysts recently attended a CASP professional development conference where there were several presentations related to the unique needs of the profoundly autistic community and the resources available from PAA. While Autism Awareness month may have ended – we know that autism advocacy efforts are needed year-round.

Touchstone will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. We honor the service and sacrifice of all of our military families.



IN PERSON GROUP MEETINGS

Houma May 15 8:30am *Getting Ready for Summer*

Thibodaux May 14 8:45am *Getting Ready for Summer*

Houma and Thibodaux SPECIAL EVENT: “Special Education Evaluations: Why They Matter for Your Child” **May 22 at 9:00am.** Guest speaker **Dr. Charlie Michel from Families Helping Families**

Baton Rouge Pre-K May 21 Group meeting at 1:00pm

Baton Rouge SLA May 21 Group meeting at 8:45am

Lafayette May 16 Group meeting at 1:00pm

Hammond May 14 Group Meeting at 1:00pm

NOLA: Saturday, May 11 SPRING FLING with the Family 10:30am, 2633 Napoleon Ave, Ste. 809, New Orleans, 70124. *Getting Ready for Summer*

Newsletter compiled by Janice Huber jhuber@tc-aba.com

ONLINE GROUP MEETINGS

Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA- Virtual Group- May 16, at 9:30am [ZOOM LINK](#)

Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA- Virtual Group- May 16 at 6:00pm [ZOOM LINK](#) Topic for meetings above: *Getting Ready for Summer*

Dr. Carmen Broussard Online Series for all families:

Thurs, May 9, 9:00am *Travel Tips*

Thurs, May 16, 12:00pm *Sleep Strategies* [ZOOM LINK](#) [Scan the QR code to join!](#)



Join Us!

Caregiver Collaboration Support Team:

Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA- Paula White at pgwhite@tc-aba.com

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