

# Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC.



*An Integrated Solutions Approach*

[www.aactnow.com](http://www.aactnow.com)

## CORPORATE PROFILE

### Type of Business

Health Care Consulting

### Number of Locations

Two Office locations, with clients in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Mexico.

### Number of Employees

Nine

### Size

55+ Clients

## Teaching Our Kids to Speak Naturally

By Daniel Quiñones

For a child with Autism, social integration and the ability to use language to develop peer relationships is often a big obstacle. Frequently, this is because applying learned skills to everyday activities does not happen by it's self. This includes the verbal skills, which make up for a great part of the disability, and of course, our teaching curriculum. Natural Environment Training (NET), administered upon assessment of a child's verbal, social and imitation skills, is a program designed to actively teach age-appropriate language.

Broadly described, NET helps the child develop natural spontaneous speech by

providing examples of it in every situation encountered. First of all, for the duration of this program (15-20 minutes of every therapy session) we as families and instructors need to detach ourselves from our teaching or parenting roles, and turn into our child's best friend by following them, while engaging in child-directed activities such as play. Next, we provide the speech that is missing. For example, if the child is going to play in the backyard, he is actively instructed to say "I'm going to play in the backyard!!!" or phrases like "Wait for me!", "Come on, let's go!".

It is important to remember that even though the disabil-



*The best teachers make use of their inner-child.*

ity may involve some degree of impaired receptive and comprehension skills, this should not discourage us from providing language that, at the time, may be unintelligible to the child. As an example, if a child is prompted to say "Come on! Get up!" every time you are sitting down, even if this phrase holds no meaning for him, the phrase will be an

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## Spotlight on Wisconsin Waiver Services: Helping keep the promise.

This past year has been especially challenging for families of children with Autism in Wisconsin who have had to make the adjustment to the lower funding levels available under the state waiver system. The previous Medicaid entitlement program, which allowed children to receive the intensive treatment recommended by

research, was replaced by a community-based waiver system. As a result, families whose children had received 3 or more years of intensive service have seen a dramatic cut in therapeutic hours. Most children continue to need as many hours of one-on-one intervention as possible to attain enough repetitions of skills for effective

learning. Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC, is pleased to be able to offer consultation service packages that allow families to direct their funds towards maximizing their child's in-home treatment program.



## Cover story (continued)

indicator for a person who is sitting down to stand up. Enough repetitions of the same words or phrases in any given situation will provide meaning to the words.

Basically, this program helps the child say what a child his age would say, not what we

want him to say. The difference between the two is that the latter may provide him with accurate words, but not necessarily language that will be functional towards socialization and peer integration skills. We really want to provide language such as "Come on! Hurry up!" rather

than "Come here please".

In order to help children develop this type of age-appropriate language that may be useful in social situations, we need to have one simple rule in mind: If a child his age would say it, help him say it too!



*Kids shouldn't be made to act or talk like adults.*

## Q & A with the President.

**Question:** What types of services does Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC, offer?

**Answer:** We offer consultation services for in-home treatment programs for children with special needs, school consultations, and community and family services. Our most common format is the workshop model. Usually, in a workshop there's a theoretical presentation, information is explained and practiced hands-on. We have 3 basic levels of consultation packages: bronze, silver and gold, of 4, 6, and 8 hours a month of supervision. Those hours are typically broken into one or more extended team meetings and overlap with each instructor. It is up to each family and their clinical director to work out the best treatment approach for that child as far as hours and amount of supervision. Also, we have a person who does family and children's crisis intervention and sib

workshops helping kids adjust to their sibling's treatment. We work with schools, autism societies, and other groups for training and presentations. Basically how that works is they contact us about a particular need and if it's a subject we can do, we'll put a presentation package together for them.

**Q:** Are these services available at all AACT Now locations?

**A:** Yes, although each location has it's own specific hour and price structure the general format is very similar and the content of the services remains constant.

**Q:** How does the consultation service model work?

**A:** The consultation service model is different from an intensive service model and that's where I'm going to make the distinction. With a consultation service, the

main thing to keep in mind is it is consulting. Your consultant gives you recommendations and it's up to you to follow through with those recommendations and adjust as necessary for your child and lifestyle. You're responsible for hiring, paying and supervising your staff, making sure things are being done, and that materials are there for your team to work with. This is different under an intensive model where you usually don't have that kind of control.

**Q:** What are the benefits to your clients with the consultation model?

**A:** Research has shown that the more involved the family is the better prognosis or better outcome the child will have. By involved, they mean follow through with behavioral management and with teaching concepts outside of the therapy situation. Even though this model may place higher demands on



*James Deehr is the founder of Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC. In addition to clinical supervision, he also lectures around the country on various topics regarding special needs children.*

the family, its results are better because of the level of involvement. Also, with the parent in control, it eliminates a lot of that helplessness people sometimes have when someone else is directing treatment. If you are in charge then you can take action.

## Employee of the Quarter-Fall 2004

Associate Training Consultant extraordinaire, Daniel Quiñones, is the Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC. employee of the quarter for Fall 2004. Daniel began his career as a line instructor in April 2002, with an incredibly reinforcing and down-to-

earth style, which children find irresistible. Daniel began as an associate consultant in June of 2003 and has continued to go above and beyond the call of duty in his capacity as training consultant. The combination of Daniel's superb knowledge,

positive attitude and his winning personality make him a favorite of employees and clients alike. On the rare occasion that Daniel is not working he enjoys getting away from it all by going to movies with friends and camping.



Daniel & children are a winning combination.

## New product available through Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC

When It's Your Child –  
There's No Such Thing As  
Too Much Protection

Introducing the  
Life Lynx Safety Key

### Strengthen Your Odds

To increase the chances of your lost child returning quickly – and safely – you need every tool possible right at your fingertips. And that's exactly why we offer the **patent pending** Life Lynx Safety Key to speed vital information in to the hands of the authorities who can help locate your missing child.

The Life Lynx Safety Key is exactly what its name implies – a key that stores your child's vital statistics – age, height, weight – so they're readily available for you to give to authorities if necessary. Plus, Life Lynx distributes both a front and profile photograph to make identification even easier. Why a key chain? Because it is always with you, wherever you

go, and the information remains solely in YOUR possession until you decide to distribute it.

### Here's How It Works:

The Life Lynx Safety Key is actually a data storage device that can be connected to virtually any PC with a USB port\*. If your child is missing, you simply use the speed of the internet to make the data on your child instantly available. Any authority with Internet access will have that data instantly, including the picture and other vital information.

An added advantage with the Life Lynx Safety Key is that **information for an entire family can be stored on one key.\*** Plus, Life Lynx distributes both a front and profile photograph of your

child to make identification even easier and The Life Lynx Safety Key can also create a **Missing Poster** using your printer, complete with descriptions and photographs. The ability to create that poster in under 10 seconds is critical. National statistics from the NCMEC state that 1 of 6 abductions are solved through their national poster distribution program.\*\*

### An Example of the Power of this Tool:

if your child is suddenly missing while you are visiting an amusement park, the first step is to contact a security guard. With your Life Lynx Safety Key your child's information and pictures can be made available instantly to any Internet capable device in the park. These devices include cell phones, PDA's, pagers and PC's. Immediately, that information is in the hands of those who can help find your child.

### From Experts You Can Trust:

The Life Lynx Safety Key was designed and developed with input from experts who deal

with missing children on a daily basis; experts who know what it takes to identify and locate lost children. This input comes from local, state, and national organizations.

### Be Ready—Right Now!

Think of the worst thing that could happen. Then ask yourself: Would you be ready to act? And act quickly? Nothing terrifies parents more than a missing child. Yet it's a terror many parents face each day with over 2000 missing person cases reported in the United States daily. If one of those 2000 children was your child, what would you do?

**To place an order or for more information contact us today!**

**1-262-784-8062**





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**An Integrated Solutions Approach**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.AACTNOW.COM](http://WWW.AACTNOW.COM)

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*Founded in September 2001, Autism & Aspergers Consulting, LLC, strives to provide the highest quality individualized in-home behavioral treatment for children between the ages of 2-15 with special needs. Since the company's inception we have led the way in innovative curriculums to dramatically improve children's lives. Our work is based on that of Dr. Ivar Lovaas whose research indicated 47% of children in the study recovered from their disorder when certain treatment conditions were met. We have taken this powerful approach and combined it with the latest advances in therapeutic intervention, including Floor time interventions, Sensory integration, Natural Environment Training and the Verbal Analysis approach. Although many of our client have a diagnosis of Autism, we also treat children with Aspergers, Traumatic Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy and Downs Syndrome. In addition to in-home treatment programs we also provide informational workshops, school consultations and Family Mental Health Services.*

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