



Parent Professional Partnership SIG

Association for Behavior
Analysis International

May 2010

Dear Parent and Professional Members of the PPP SIG:

Hello! We hope that many of you may be heading to San Antonio next month to attend the 36th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).

ABAI has long recognized that parents are not mere recipients but important partners in the delivery of services. Given that many of you are eager to learn more about behavior analysis and how it can help individuals with special needs, we wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of the opportunities that lie ahead.

The Parent Professional Partnership Special Interest Group (PPP SIG) has developed this letter to serve as an orientation and to explain the following:

- Overview of the ABAI convention
- Description of the variety of events scheduled at the conference
- Specific meetings and events that may be of interest to parents

Please also visit our website at www.AutismPPPSIG.org.

Thank you for your participation. We hope you enjoy the conference and look forward to meeting you in the days to come.

Sincerely,

David Celiberti, Ph.D., BCBA, Co-President
Barbara Wells, Co-President and Parent
Pamela H. Gorski, MPA, BCBA, Secretary-Treasurer
Peggy Halliday, M.Ed., BCBA, Consumer Liaison

About the Annual ABAI Convention

Our annual convention is a fairly large event and may feel overwhelming. You will need to choose from several simultaneous events throughout the duration of the convention and select events most aligned with your interests and needs. Although geared towards professionals in the field of behavior analysis (and not limited to autism), rest assured that parents have found this convention to be very helpful and informative and have availed themselves of opportunities to network with parents and professionals alike.

This ABAI Convention program book lists all presentations in chronological order. You will find that ABAI Convention program book contains a large number of interesting presentations scheduled at the conference that are related to Autism. Please note that there are literally hundreds of other presentations in areas outside of Autism (such as education, mental retardation, child development, or inclusion) that may have direct relevance to you and therefore should be considered. Many of the events will include an abstract that summarizes the event. The ABAI Convention is made up of several different types of events. These are explained below.

General Convention Events and Opportunities

- **Parent Professional Partnership (PPP) Special Interest Group and Autism Special Interest Group Business Meetings** are brief meetings for those who share a specific interest. We strongly encourage you to attend the PPP SIG and the Autism SIG meetings. The PPP SIG typically meets on Sunday morning and the Autism SIG typically meets on Saturday or Sunday evening. You may be interested in attending other special interest group meetings as well (e.g., Verbal Behavior SIG, Positive Behavior Support SIG).
- **Parents Sharing the Conference Experience** is a wonderful informal gathering facilitated by a group leader that provides parents attending for the first time and seasoned parents an opportunity to meet, share experiences and network. We strongly encourage you to attend this session. It is typically in the early evening midway through the conference.
- **Poster sessions** showcase several dozen research-based projects. The posters include a written narrative describing the purpose, procedures, and findings of the research. Posters often display innovative approaches to the daily challenges many parents face on their autism journey. There are typically over 100 posters presented at once in a large room and they are generally organized by area of focus. Authors of the posters stand alongside their respective research and field questions by individuals such as parents or other professionals who walk around the room and read through the displayed posters. Poster sessions enable you to meet and dialogue with both leaders in the field and individuals heavily involved in practice and to dialogue with them; however the poster sessions can be a bit crowded. Considering the large number of posters, you may find it helpful to review the topics in this program book ahead of time and make note of those posters you wish to review.
- **Paper Presentations** are formal talks by one or more presenters on specific topics. Presentations are usually 20 minutes in duration and three different papers can be presented during one session. Topics are not always related. Plan your schedule around the topics that are of most interest to you. Attendees are free to enter or exit sessions while being respectful of ongoing presentations. There is typically time at the end for questions from the audience.

- **Panel Discussions** are structured or semi-structured dialogues around a particular theme or issue such as transition planning for young adults or criteria for including students with Autism in regular education classrooms. Panels are moderated by a discussant. Often, there may be conflicting opinions expressed and/or lively dialogue reflecting different perspectives. There may or may not be time for questions from the audience. Panel discussions are usually 50 or 80 minutes in duration based in part on the number of panelists.
- **Symposia** are a series of 3-5 short paper presentations that revolve around a particular theme (see some sample topics below). Each paper is presented one at a time. At the end of the symposia, a discussant highlights the key themes and may provide a critique of each paper. Unlike Panel Discussions there is no discussion between speakers.
- **Pre-conference workshops** are more intensive presentations on a particular topic and range from 3 to 6 hours in duration. This is perhaps the most comprehensive of the various conference events and you will likely be provided with a handout that corresponds to the presentation. Please be aware that an additional fee is charged for workshops. These are the only conference events not included in the overall registration fee.
- **ABA Expo** is a social gathering featuring presentations of graduate training programs, internship and employment opportunities, affiliated ABAI chapters, ABA boards and committees, and behavioral associations from around the world. Officers from the Autism SIG and the Parent-Professional Partnership SIG are typically on hand to answer questions.
- **ABA Book Store** is open throughout the conference with hundreds of books available for immediate purchase, many of which would be of interest to parents. Conference attendees can skim through the books prior to purchase.

Some common presentation topics that may be of interest to parents include:

- Teaching language and communication skills
- Teaching play and social skills
- Promoting generalization of skills
- Toilet training
- Understanding and addressing challenging behaviors
- Applying behavioral models in public school settings
- Parent training
- Transition planning
- Increasing independence in home and community settings
- Workshops related to specific teaching techniques such as discrete trial instruction or fluency based instruction

ABAI Convention: San Antonio, Texas
.....You're Invited!

Parent Events and Opportunities

Given that some of you may be attending the ABAI convention for the first time we want to provide you with specific information about the more important events for parents.

Parents and Other Caregivers: Welcome to the ABAI Convention

When: Saturday, May 29; 10:00-10:50 am

Where: 213A (Conference Center)

The Autism SIG Business Meeting

When: Sunday, May 30; 7:30-8:50 pm

Where: 217B (Conference Center)

The Parent-Professional Partnership SIG Business Meeting

When: Sunday, May 30; 8:00-8:50 am

Where: 213A (Conference Center)

Parents and Professionals Sharing the Convention Experience

When: Saturday, May 29; 7:30-8:20pm

Where: 214C (Conference Center)

PPP SIG will have a table at the ABAI Expo

When: Saturday, May 29; 8:30-11:00 pm

Where: Exhibit Hall A

Please see the conference program for more information on these events. For information throughout the year, please visit www.autismpppsig.org