



**MASD Family Support Group**  
***Now Assisting Families of Children with Unique Abilities***

McKeesport Area School District in conjunction with Family Behavioral Resources (FBR) and the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) originally developed a support group for parents and families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. *MASD has opened the group to include families who have children with unique abilities and challenges.*

Meetings are held from 6PM-7:30PM (on the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted) in the Staff Development Room (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of McKeesport Area School District's Administration Building, located at 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132.

Ms. Cathy Hughes, parent of a child with special needs, and also FBR's Family Support Coordinator, facilitates the Family Support Group. Should respite care be needed to enable your family's participation in the group, please share such information when making the RSVP.

*Don't miss our speaker series and end of year celebration!*

*Join us for useful information, food, and door prizes!*

**SAVE THE DATE! October 21, 2008:**

***Lynn Alms, SCU Director for Mon Yough Community Services***

Lynn will field questions from parents, as well as present a family guide to accessing and effectively utilizing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Case Management Services. Learn about what MYCS can do for your family!

**SAVE THE DATE! November 18, 2008:**

***Cathy Hughes, Group Facilitator; Family Support Coordinator, FBR***

Cathy will present resources and information, as well as lead a collaborative parent discussion, about coping with the stressors of the holiday season. This is often a difficult time for families with special needs, especially those affected by autism.

**SAVE THE DATE! December 16, 2008:**

Join us for a relaxing dinner off-site to celebrate the holidays! Location to be determined.

**SAVE THE DATE! January 21, 2009:**

Sheila Cannon, Coordinator for the Down Syndrome Clinic in Pittsburgh will present information on "Teaching children with cognitive impairments to be safe!"

**RSVPs should be made to Ms. Patty Tkacik,  
Director of Special Education for MASD  
412-664-3622 or ptkacik@mckasd.net**