

# ACCELERATED CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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## THE ELIJA SCHOOL

[www.elijaschool.org](http://www.elijaschool.org)

**April 20, 2010**

**10am – 2pm**

### **Dr. David Celiberti and Ruth Donlin**

Autisms and How It Affects the Entire Family Unit: How to Recognize and Help Remediate Quality of Family Life Issues, from Marriage, Friendships to Siblings

#### **A.M. Session**

**10am – 12pm**

What about me? Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Siblings of Children with Autism

The bond we share with our siblings is one of the longest, most important relationships of our lives. Unfortunately, many parents may struggle with concerns and questions related to their typically developing children. This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of some common sibling challenges and address important topics such as the possible impact of autism on siblings, parent-sibling communication, siblings' understanding of autism and related disabilities, siblings' relationships with their friends, self esteem, and balanced parenting.

#### **P.M. Session**

**12:30 – 2pm**

How to beat the statistics: Understanding and addressing how autism affects the family unit

Families can become consumed with improving the life of their child(ren) with autism. However, in becoming singular in their focus to make sure they have done everything they can to help their child, they may over look how to create a balanced family environment of love, peace, and stability which serves as the foundation by making the family relationships a priority and focus. There are purported statistics indicating that the divorce rate of families of children with autism is in the 80% range. Personal difficulties reported by parents of autistic children include increased stress, poor physical health, depression, excessive time demands, parental burnout, effect on family life, and future psychosocial problems. This workshop will focus on employing strategies to build and strengthen the family unit.

**Location:** Levittown Community Hall,  
201 Levittown Parkway, Hicksville NY 11801

**Fee:** \$20 Members/\$40 Non-Members/Walk-ins

**RSVP:** [jkaplan@elijaschool](mailto:jkaplan@elijaschool) or 516-216-5270