

## Curriculum Vitae for Rebecca Klaw

### Contact Information:

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### Personal Information:

Born April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1952 in New York City  
Married with three children

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

#### 1988 to present - Self-employed

**Title: Consultant, Trainer, Author, Advocate, Expert Witness, Owner of *Autism Services by Klaw*, Co-owner of *Ryuu Endeavors, Inc.***

#### Job responsibilities:

Consulting with families in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and North Carolina regarding the appropriateness and effectiveness of home and school programs

Consulting with school districts in the Pennsylvania counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver, Butler, Centre, Montgomery, Berks, Bucks, and Cambria as well as Barnesville, Ohio

Providing case consultation for therapists in the Pittsburgh area to help develop expertise in the mental health needs of individuals with autism

Training on issues pertaining to autism in children of all ages (Birth to Three, Early Intervention and/or Preschool, and School Aged) in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Oregon, Michigan, Maryland, Mississippi, Utah, Florida, Washington, Montana, Indiana and Virginia

Providing training and consulting over a two year period to Birth-to-Three professionals in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Providing ongoing consultation to early intervention staff in Waterbury, CT.

Running four different support groups for parents of individuals with Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism over an eight year period

Running a discussion group for adults with High Functioning Autism or Aspergers over a five year period

Running a support group for spouses and partners of those on the autism spectrum

Providing case consultation to behavior specialists and therapists providing in-home therapy and therapy at residential treatment facilities

Consultation and training for Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and New Horizon School over a five year period

Ongoing consultation with Glade Run Lutheran Services and St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy. Participation in their National Advisory Board.

Participation in the development of the Autism Program at St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy and ongoing consultation around meeting the needs of individual students

Testifying in federal, family and criminal courts as an expert witness as well as in education due process hearings and in front of unemployment compensation referees

Issues addressed as an expert witness:

The need for, and description of, Free and Appropriate Education for individual students with Autism

The characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome and how it may impact an employee's experience and reaction to negative interactions at work and how it may impact behavior at work

Autism and how it manifests in children , teenagers and adults

The impact of having a child with autism on a family

The particular caregiving needs of children with autism

The effects of rape on a child with autism and intellectual disability

The effects of rape on a teenager with autism and intellectual disability

The effects of rape on a man with Down Syndrome (preparation only – no trial)

**Job responsibilities (cont.):**

Advising attorneys involved in special education legal proceedings about the appropriateness of the current and past Individual Education Programs designed for their clients with autism

Advising attorneys involved in special education legal proceedings about the appropriateness of the current and past Modifications, Specially Designed Instructions and/or related services offered and provided to their clients with autism

Advising attorneys involved in special education legal proceedings about whether educational records indicate meaningful education progress of students or indicate problems of regression and/or recoupment by students with autism

Advising attorneys involved in special education legal proceedings about the appropriateness and effectiveness of behavioral intervention strategies and the Positive Behavior Support Plans provided to their clients with autism

Advising attorneys involved in special education legal proceedings about the appropriateness of a proposed or current educational placement for their clients with autism

Advising attorneys in family court about the unique parenting needs of children on the autism spectrum

Developing a multimedia, web-based training for the Watson Institute, in Pittsburgh, PA and for KenCrest in Philadelphia, PA

Participating in the Advisory Board of a local agency that serves over 3,000 families of individuals with an autism diagnosis

Teaching courses on autism for OSHER at Carnegie Mellon University and at The University of Pittsburgh

Lecturing at the University of Pittsburgh in both graduate and undergraduate programs

Sponsoring conferences of local professionals with unique contributions to the autism community

Publishing training DVDs, two of which, Relationship-based Intervention... and Thoughtful Response to Agitation..., are being sold nationally and internationally

Co-authoring a book entitled Goals to Data and Back Again – Adding Backbone to Developmental Intervention for Children with Autism, Jessica Kingsley Publishing Company, 2003

Consulting with the Western Pennsylvania Museum Council about ways to make museums more hospitable to those with autism

Developing tools for teaching social skills for children and teens with high functioning autism and Asperger's ([www.ryuuworld.com](http://www.ryuuworld.com))

**2006 (January through June) Pressley Ridge**

**Title: Independent contractor for consultation and training**

**Job Responsibilities:**

Training all Therapeutic Staff Support and Behavior Consultants in advanced clinical issues

Training and consulting with school staff

Monthly case review with all autism clinical supervisors and case managers

Training new Therapeutic Staff Support in play-based intervention, child development, sexual abuse, and therapeutic response to crisis

**1998-2006 Pressley Ridge /Autism and Developmental Disabilities Program**

**Title: Program Director/Clinical Supervisor**

**Job Responsibilities:**

Directing large program serving 160 families per year

Clinical design and ongoing consultation of all in-home cases receiving an eclectic approach to intervention

Clinical training for all staff

Clinical design and ongoing consultation of all social skills groups

Administration of groups program involving 100+ participants

**1998-1999 Allegheny Intermediate Unit/Project DART**

**Title: Autism Consultant/Trainer**

**Job Responsibilities:**

Intensive training and supervision for psychologists and consultants in ways to support young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

County-wide basic training for DART staff

Support and training for parents of DART preschoolers

Monthly group supervision of psychologists and consultants

**1996-1998 Developmental Pediatrics - Allegheny General Hospital  
Title: Coordinator of the PLAY Project**

**1994-1998 Developmental Pediatrics - Allegheny General Hospital  
Title: Parenting Consultant/ Play Therapist**

**1989-1994 Allegheny Neuropsychiatric Institute - Allegheny General Hospital  
Title: Psychotherapist/Child Development Specialist**

**1981-1989 John Merck Program - Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic  
Title: Creative and Expressive Arts Therapist**

**1979-1981 University of Pittsburgh, Department of Elementary Education  
Title: Graduate Student Assistant**

**1976-1979 McEwan Open School  
Title: Upper Elementary Classroom Teacher**

**EDUCATION:**

Graduated from Elizabeth Irwin High School in New York City, 1970

AB in Environmental Education - Vassar College, 1975

M.Ed in Elementary Education - University of Pittsburgh, 1980

MS in Child Care, Child Development - University of Pittsburgh, 1981

Certified in supported employment for individuals with developmental disabilities through Virginia Commonwealth University, 2009

Ongoing training and attendance at conferences, including:

- Floortime (Greenspan, Weider)
- Relationship Development Intervention (Gutstein)
- Visual Strategies (Hodgdon, Lehman)
- Social Stories (Gray)
- Developing Language (Quill)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Atwood)
- Social Thinking (Winner)
- Sexuality and Autism (Henault, Atwood, Hingsburger)
- Issues of Special Education (Pennsylvania Bar Association, Peter Wright)
- Inclusion (LaVoie, Kluth)
- Challenging Behaviors (many authors, experts and trainers)

#### **AWARDS:**

Recipient of the inaugural Grandin Award presented in 2001 by The Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (ABOARD) for "maximizing the potential and possibilities of children with autism"

Presented with an award from Family Behavioral Resources in 2008 for commitment to the autism community and increasing autism awareness

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

##### **Books:**

Lehman and Klaw, Goals to Data and Back Again – Adding Backbone to Developmental Intervention for Children with Autism, Jessica Kingsley Publishing Company, 2003

##### **Training DVDs:**

*Relationship-based Intervention – Why and How to Make the Social Connection that Builds Growth and Development in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 2006, Autism Services by Klaw.

*Thoughtful Response to Agitation, Escalation and Meltdowns in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 2007, Autism Services by Klaw.

##### **Therapeutic Materials (co-designed):**

*Ryuu – the Game*®, a social skills game for children, teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum, [www.ryuuworld.com](http://www.ryuuworld.com)

*Ryuu Trading Cards*, trading cards in the style of Magic, Star Wars or Pokemon that are based on cognitive behavioral therapy, [www.ryuuworld.com](http://www.ryuuworld.com)

*The Books of Ryuu*, a CD-ROM that contains the mythology of the world of Ryuu, [www.ryuuworld.com](http://www.ryuuworld.com)

## **PRESENTATIONS/KEYNOTES:**

### **Thoughtful Response to Agitation, Escalation and Meltdowns in Individuals with ASD**

*Pittsburgh, PA; Tampa, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Cromwell, CT; Beaver, PA; Logan Co, OH; Ogden, UT; Westchester, NY; Jackson, MI; Buffalo, NY; Seattle, WA; Missoula, MT; Kalispell, MT; Zelenople, PA; Danville, VA; Slippery Rock University, PA; Greensburg, PA; Kennewick, WA; Hamden, CT*

### **Sexual Abuse and Autism**

*Pressley Ridge Schools, Pittsburgh, PA*

### **Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Students with ASD**

*The Children's Institute, Pittsburgh, PA*

### **Counseling Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

*Yellow Springs, OH; Tampa, FL*

### **The Clash between Zero Tolerance and Autism - In Schools and in the Criminal Justice System**

*(Co-presented with A. Feldman, Esquire) Pittsburgh, PA; Duquesne University*

### **Square Pegs in Round Holes - *Living With Autism in a Social World***

*Slippery Rock University (keynote); California University*

### **Behavior... Thinking about Parents**

*The Children's Institute, Pittsburgh, PA*

### **Helping Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders Communicate**

*Pittsburgh, PA; Tampa, FL; Beaver, PA*

### **Mental Health Issues for College Students with Aspergers**

*Carnegie Mellon University*

### **Maximizing Success & Decreasing Frustration for Students on the Autism Spectrum**

*Philadelphia, PA*

### **Autism: Where it All Begins -- Babies as Learners, Adults as Teachers**

*Greensburg, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Bethel Park, PA; Philadelphia, PA*

### **Autism in the Preschool Child**

*Cranberry, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; New York City, NY*

### **Befriending Peers with ASD**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

### **From Goals to Data and Back Again**

*State College, PA; Middletown, CT; Lubbock, TX (2 days); Pittsburgh, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Auglaize, OH; Warren, OH; Canton, OH (2 days); Tampa, FL; Logan Co, Ohio; Seattle, WA*

### **Therapeutic Social Groups**

*Ann Arbor, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Ligonier, PA*

**Supporting Social Learning through Play**

*Pittsburgh, PA; Beaver, PA*

**Advanced Topics in Working with Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders - Building Relationships, Managing Meltdowns**

*Cromwell, CT*

**Teaching Tips for Students with ASD who are Included in Regular Education Classes**

*Robert Morris University (keynote)*

**Understanding the Student with High Functioning Autism / Aspergers Syndrome**

*Pittsburgh, PA; Manassas, VA; Altoona, PA; Mercer, PA; Greensburg, PA; Harrisburg, PA; DuBois, PA; Sebring, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Buffalo, NY; Kalispell, MT; Missoula, MT; Seattle, WA; Ogden, UT; Danville, VA; Erie, PA; Slippery Rock University, PA; Kennewick, WA; Monaca, PA*

**What To Do About The Top Ten Complex and Challenging Characteristics of HFA/AS**

*Erie, PA (keynote)*

**Developing Social Skills in Children with Autism**

*Cromwell, CT; Pittsburgh, PA; Tampa, FL; Sebring, FL; Tampa, FL; Logan Co, OH; Greensburg, PA; Baltimore, MD; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Philadelphia, PA; Beaver, PA*

**An Introduction to Relationship-based Therapy**

*Hartford, CT; Philadelphia, PA; Cromwell, CT; Pittsburgh, PA; Bristol, CT; Biloxi, MS; Richmond, VA; Warren, OH; Hershey, PA; Wilkes-Barre, PA; Harrisburg, PA; Williamsburg, VA; Doylestown, PA; Clearwater Beach, FL; Paducah, KY; Owensboro, KY; Ann Arbor, MI; Manassas, VA; State College, PA; Eugene, OR; Pittsburgh, PA: State College, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Charlotte, NC, Harrisburg, PA; Tampa, FL; Logan Co, OH; Canton, OH*

**Designing Intervention – A Developmental Approach with Backbone**

*Bristol CT (1/2 day); Waterbury, CT (4 days); Philadelphia, PA (2 days), Pittsburgh, PA (2 days); Pittsburgh, PA (5 days); Pittsburgh, PA (1/2 day); Stratford CT (1 day)*

**Transformation or Celebration – A Necessary Balancing Act in Supporting Individuals with Autism**

*Zelienople, PA; Carnegie Melon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

**Recognizing Abuse, Neglect and Assault – and what to do about it**

*(Co-presented with Ron Lebovitz, Esq.) ASA National conference, Pittsburgh, PA; PBI Conference on Exceptional Children, Lancaster, PA*

**Autism in the Media**

*Zelienople, PA*