

Autism cont. from pg. 1

rent research. The structure of this behavioral intervention uses operant conditioning methods and discrete trial teaching specifically applied to children with autism as based on the works of Ivar Lovaas."

Freshman Angel McKinney is a psychology major who is involved with MAP. She decided to become involved with the program because she was "interested in working with special needs children and thought the class would be a good way to get involved and get a more 'hands on' experience in the field." Through her involvement with the program, she says she has "definitely [seen the success of MAP]. You can see a definite difference in the interaction between the children and the workers as well as with the fellow students." Being involved with the program has not only benefited the child she works with, but has also rewarded her. She says the best part of being involved with MAP is "getting to see [her] client learn something new and getting to see his joy in learning." McKinney highly recommends becoming involved in MAP and describes it as "a humbling learning experience." Visit <http://meredith.edu/autism> for more information about Meredith Autism Program.

Autism in Charities
Autism Speaks

began raising awareness for autism in 2005. Funding research about the causes, prevention, treatment, and cure for autism is its main goal. Autism Speaks is committed to improving the lives of all those touched by autism, regardless of where each individual

falls on the autism spectrum. Walk Now for Autism is a yearly grassroots effort with walks all across the country benefiting Autism Speaks. This year, on Oct. 4, Walk Now for Autism Carolinas will be held in Concord.

The Bubel/Aiken Foundation (TBAF) was started in 2003. It's a local foundation (based in Raleigh) whose mission is to include kids with disabilities into programs with kids without disabilities. TBAF sponsors yearly summer camps all over the United States where kids with and without special needs can have fun playing and learning together. TBAF also supports the inclusion of children with special needs in classrooms with typically developing students. This year the Southern Women's Show, held at the NC State Fairgrounds, will include a "Dancing Like the Stars" competition on Sun., Apr. 27 to benefit TBAF. I really recommend getting involved with TBAF—it's not only a rewarding and enriching experience for those who volunteer, but also the foundation's efforts are making an incredible difference in the lives of countless children.

Visit <http://www.bubelaiken.org/> and <http://www.autismspeaks.org/> for more information about the wonderful work each of these charities is doing and also to donate to each cause.

Star Tech

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Picture frames aren't what they used to be. Yep—they, like so many other everyday items, have gone high-tech. Digital photo frames come in all shapes, sizes, colors . . . and price ranges. Looking for a Mother's Day or Father's Day gift? There's surely a photo frame in your price range. Upload some family photos onto it and you're good to go! Here, you'll find a nice selection of photo frames, from the tiny (and inexpensive) to the grandiose (and feature-filled).

Coby DP-151

This pocket-sized photo frame is really cute and handy. It can even be used as a keychain! It has a 1.5" screen and stores over 60 photos. Users upload photos via the device's USB port, and the photo frame displays JPEG, GIF, and BMP files (the most commonly used extensions for picture files). Perhaps the best part of this handy gadget is its price tag: you can find it for as little as \$15 online. What a great gift idea, budget-wise college students



Coby DP-151 Digital Photo Frame: small package, small price tag



Smartparts SPDPF70E Digital Photo Frame: mid-range photo frame



Kodak EasyShare EX-811 Digital Picture Frame: expensive, but cool features

(and anyone else, for that matter)!

Smartparts SPDPF70E Digital Photo Frame

With a 7-inch display, memory card support and sub-\$70 price tag, this is a pretty standard photo frame. It accepts a myriad of memory sticks, so there are plenty of photo storage options. It displays only JPEGs, and obviously isn't a keychain . . . so this photo frame plays a different role than the previous one. However, it's a good, solid entry-level device. If you think the price is too steep, but you love the idea for a Mother's Day gift, how about splitting the cost among siblings?

Kodak EasyShare EX-811 Digital Picture Frame

This model features an 8-inch screen, has memory card slots and plays audio and video files in addition to showing pictures. It includes 128 MB of on-device storage capacity, but adding a memory card or flash drive would add even more room for files. At around \$160, this photo frame may be spendy, but it seems to be pretty cool! Again, price sharing is a good thing.

A Caution About Digital Photo Frames

I recently read an article about Chinese-imported gadgets, such as iPods and digital photo frames, that come pre-loaded with viruses. The viruses are picked up when the devices are plugged into infected factory computers to test them. They spread when users connect the devices to their personal computers to load personal files such as songs and pictures. Just to be safe, try to find a photo frame that allows you to store and display photos without connecting the device to your computer. I'd suggest using a flash drive or memory card to store your pictures; this precaution eliminates the need to connect the photo frame to the computer to get files.

Whether opting for the miniscule, the large, or something in-between, digital photo frames are great, really cool gadgets to give as a gift or to display in your own space. Visit Yahoo Shopping to find all of the featured digital photo frames and more.

Photos courtesy: <http://shopping.yahoo.com/p:Coby%20DP-151%20Digital%20Photo%20Frame:2003653736>; <http://shopping.yahoo.com/p:Smartparts%20SPDPF70E%20Digital%20Photo%20Frame:1994908517:page=details>; <http://shopping.yahoo.com/p:Kodak%20EASYSHARE%20EX-811%20Digital%20Picture%20Frame:1994680500:page=details>

Note: URLs have been truncated