



GRASP MANHATTAN GREETINGS AND SUPPORT GROUP PROCEDURES

Dear Attendees:

A special welcome to all newcomers!

We hope that your experience at our Support Group will be both gratifying and informative.

The structure of our meetings is as follows (times are approximate, and may be adjusted depending on the number of newcomers):

5:45 – 6:30 PM Greetings and Introductions

ALL attendees introduce themselves by first name and give their diagnoses (formal or suspected) or else whom they are attending on behalf of. Newcomers then give *basic* information about themselves, particularly in regard to living situation (independent or otherwise), employment status, whether they are in any relationships, and other issues of concern to individuals on the autism spectrum.

6:30 – 7:10 PM Topic or Special Presentation

This is usually the pre-determined discussion topic for the month, as posted on the GRASP support group web page, with occasional presentations by either group members or visitors.

7:10 – 7:50 PM Group Sharing

Newcomers have the opportunity to tell something about themselves and to ask the group any questions that they might have concerning the autism spectrum. All other group members may then share about issues with which they are dealing.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SHARING TO UNDER 5 MINUTES TO ENSURE THAT ALL ATTENDEES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP. THE FACILITATOR WILL RAISE HIS INDEX FINGER TO INDICATE THAT THE NEXT PERSON MUST BE GIVEN HIS/HER TURN TO SHARE.

7:50 – 8:00 PM Bulletin Board

Announcements of general interest to the support group; for example:

- Special interest or social groups that meet outside of support meetings.
- Books, films, television programs, etc. pertaining to the autism spectrum.
- Individuals offering to do volunteer work.
- *Significant* personal milestones to be shared with the group.

MEETING CONCLUDES PROMPTLY AT 8:00 PM.