ACRES 38th Annual Conference, 2019.

 Exploring the Developmental, Social and Academic and Family

 Support Concerns for Fathers of Children with Autism

 Mark S. Brown, Ph.D. Daemen College, Amherst, New York

Bronfenbrenner’s family system’s model organizes the context of child development into five levels of external systems. Each of these systems interact with and influence every aspect of the child’s life. This system can be used to

explore a father’s relationship with his son who is on the autism spectrum.

**Micro-system**. The micro-system involves personal relationships with family members, classmates, teachers, and care givers. These personal interactions between the members of these systems can often go back and forth.

 ***. Father reads a book to his son (with ASD) at home. The son points to some***

 ***of the pictures in the story.***

**Meso-system**. The meso-system encompasses the interactions of the different micro-systems in which the child with autism spectrum finds himself or herself in.

 ***. Father accompanies his son to the physical therapist near his home***

**Exo-system.**  The exo-system pertains to the linkages that may exist between the

two settings (i.e. home and school, home and therapy, and home and community events) which may not always contain the developing child with autism spectrum but may affect him indirectly.

 . ***Father sometimes takes his son with ASD to his sibling’s baseball game.***

**Macro-system**. The macro-system is comprised of the society’s cultural patterns, values and beliefs. Today, our society is more aware of “differences” that can

occur between children who are typically developing and children who may have

a pervasive developmental disorder. Our society is demonstrating more inclusive

practices and also providing therapy and support that is empathetic in nature.

 *.* ***What your own personal belief concerning how society views and/or treats***

 ***a child or youth on the autism spectrum?***