

National Autism Awareness Month!

April is National Autism Awareness month which gives schools an opportunity to recognize students, staff and families as well as promote public awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

About National Autism Awareness

Month: Established in the 1970s to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, April is a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community. With 1 in 110 Americans now being diagnosed, the need for services and supports is greater than ever, and this year the Autism Society hopes to raise awareness of the many issues faced by families affected by autism. Learn more at

www.autism-society.org//AutismAwarenessMonth.
(Autism Society of America)



Here are some ideas for staff, families and students to promote Autism Awareness in your school and district.

Ideas for Staff:

- ♦ Training staff (bus drivers, lunch & recess staff, security, general education staff, etc,) on characteristics of ASD
- ♦ Puzzle piece pins, ribbons and treats for staff
- ♦ Handouts on strategies for general education teachers
- ♦ Classroom discussions on autism topics
- ♦ Develop a resource Library
- ♦ Luncheon celebrating those working with students with ASD



Ideas for Students

- ♦ **Puzzle Piece Activity:** Give each class or student a piece of a puzzle to decorate, put all pieces together for wall hanging in school or at district office.
- ♦ **Read-A-Loud books on Autism**
- ♦ **Movie Night for students**
- ♦ **"All About Me"** Students with ASD present to peers using video, PowerPoint or speaking presentations.
- ♦ **Ice Cream Social** for students and staff during lunch or in the evening.
- ♦ **Posters around the School:** Make posters to put on bulletin boards around the school writing facts about autism and showcasing the student's arts and crafts. Put some in the district administration building also.

Ideas for Families:

Resource Center: A place families can get information on community services, summer & recreational opportunities and check out books and videos on ASD



- ♦ **Parent Friendly Website** or Wiki Space
- ♦ **Pot Luck Dinner or Picnic**
- ♦ **Speakers**
- ♦ **Parent Coffees**

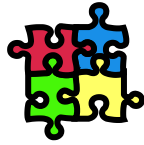
Educational Resources for Students with Autism

Websites

- ⇒ www.autism4teachers.com
- ⇒ A publication including 6 articles regarding autism spectrum disorder available at:
www.cesa7.k12.wi.us/sped/autism/index2.htm
- ⇒ Tasks Galore! www.tasksgalore.com
- ⇒ National Professional Development Center on ASD:
<http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/>
- ⇒ File Folder Activities:
www.filefolderheaven.com
- ⇒ EIC-ASD: Enhancing Instructional Contexts for Students with ASD.
<http://education.gsu.edu/autism/>
- ⇒ Time Timers: www.timetimer.com

Educational Resources

- ⇒ www.autismnetwork.org
- ⇒ www.autismclassroom.com
- ⇒ www.autismaspergers.net
- ⇒ www.autisminspiration.com, monthly membership for lesson plans and other materials
- ⇒ www.edhelper.com, pre-made educational materials



Books and Articles

Autism: Interventions and Strategies for Success by Susan L. Stokes, 2000

Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Step-by-Step Guide for Educators. Edited by Roger Pierangelo and George Giuliani, 2008

Solving Behavior Problems in Autism: Improving Communication with Visual Strategies by Linda A. Hodgdon Quirk Roberts, 1999

How Do I Teach this Kid? By Kimberly A. Hernry, 2005

You're Going to Love This Kid by Paula Kluth, (2003)

Simpson, R. (2005) Evidence-Based Practices and Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Focus on Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities*, 20(3) 140-149.

Evidence-Based Practice and Autism in the Schools www.nationalautismcenter.org

Educational Resources

Waren, S, Fey, M, Yoder, P (2007) Differential Treatment Intensity Research: A Missing Link to Creating Optimally Effective Communication Interventions. *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*, 13 70-77.

The Way I See It by Temple Grandin

The Complete Guide to Asperger Syndrome by Tony Attwood

Learners on the Autism Spectrum: Preparing Highly Qualified Educators, Edited by Kari Dunn Buron and Pamela Wolfberg

Videos for Parents and Educators

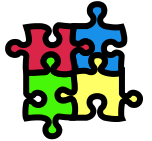
- ⇒ www.autismspeaks.org/video/index.php
- ⇒ <http://autism.yale.edu>
- ⇒ www.autisminternetmodules.org
- ⇒ www.txautism.net



About the Puzzle Ribbon: The puzzle pattern reflects the mystery and complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with the condition. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope - hope that through increased awareness of autism, early intervention and appropriate treatments, people with autism will lead fuller, more complete lives. (Autism Society of America)

Supports for Families

- ⇒ Autism Society of Colorado, www.autismcolorado.org
- ⇒ Autism Society of America, www.autism-society.org
- ⇒ Peak Parent Center, www.peakparent.org



Supports for Educators

- ⇒ National Autism Center, www.nationalautismcenter.org
- ⇒ Council for Exceptional Children, www.cec.sped.org
- ⇒ Colorado Department of Education, Autism webpage, www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Autism.asp

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