

April is...

Autism Awareness Month

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a complex, developmental disability that causes problems with social skills and communication. Autism can be mild or severe. It is different for every person.

SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

- Studies indicate that 1 in 68 children will be diagnosed with Autism.
- Boys are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls.
- There is no known, single cause of Autism.
- Autism impacts each person differently. Some people with Autism are nonverbal, while others are highly gifted in areas.
- There is no cure for Autism.

THE SYMBOL FOR AUTISM AWARENESS IS THE PUZZLE PIECE

The puzzle piece represents the mystery and complexity of Autism. The different colors (red, yellow, and blue,) represent the diversity of the families and people living with Autism.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

When interacting with someone with Autism remember...

- Just because they are not looking at you doesn't mean they are not listening.
- Talk as equals, do not talk down to them.
- If you think a communication error has happened, clarify it, ask questions.
- Be patient.

AUTISM IN ENTERTAINMENT

There are many characters on popular shows today that demonstrate Autistic traits and tendencies. Some examples are...

- Sheldon from 'The Big Bang Theory'.
- Brick from 'The Middle'.
- Julia from Sesame Street

FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

- James Durbin: American Idol contestant.
- Dan Akroyd: Actor, best know for his role in Blues Brothers.
- Tim Burton: Director of films like: Batman Begins.

