

# OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



*April 2023*

## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

April 2023

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. Scientists believe there are multiple causes of Autism Spectrum Disorder that act together to change the most common ways individuals develop. People with ASD may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The abilities of people with ASD can vary significantly. For example, some people with ASD may have advanced conversation skills whereas others may be nonverbal. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others can work and live with little to no support.

Autism Spectrum Disorder begins before the age of 3 years and can last throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time. Some children may show ASD symptoms within the first 12 months of life. In others, symptoms may not show up until 24 months of age or later. Some children with ASD gain new skills and meet developmental milestones until around 18 to 24 months of age, and then they stop gaining new skills or lose the skills they once had.

*-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



# FACTS OF



# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

*-Autism Speaks*

- Approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - 1 in 27 boys identified with Autism
  - 1 in 116 girls identified with Autism
- Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with Autism than girls.
- Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups.
- Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan.
- There is no medical detection for Autism.



## THE INFINITY SIGN

The rainbow infinity symbol was initially used to represent Autistic Pride Day on June 18th, founded by Aspies for Freedom in 2005. The symbol was intended to reflect “diversity with infinite variations and infinite possibilities”. In February 2018, the Autism puzzle piece was replaced with a rainbow-colored infinity symbol to represent a spectrum, diversity, and difference. It removes the idea that those with autism are missing parts or are incomplete and that “Having a lack does not make me less human than the rest of the world,” (Good Autism School).



# Tips to Promote Acceptance and Inclusion in Everyday Life

"Creating awareness was the first step in our conversation about disability inclusion, however, acceptance enforces awareness and reflects how our society should celebrate the differences and abilities that neurodivergent people have."

-Elle Love (Author)

- **Diversify your Child's Bookshelf**

*Create an inclusive bookshelf by selecting books with characters of differing races, ethnicities, and genders.*

- **Take Advantage of Learning Opportunities**

*If you see a child with ASD, engage in motor and/or vocal stereotypy, you could say, "Sometimes people do different things when they're feeling different emotions. It looks like she's feeling happy. What do you do when you feel happy?"*

- **Use Language Appropriate to the Individual**

*Ask individuals or their family members what language they find to be the most respectful and appropriate.*

## CONTACT US

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# CELEBRATING ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

APRIL 26, 2023

*A huge shout out goes to all of Auburn's administrative professionals! They organize, assist, plan, simplify, coordinate and do a billion other amazing things to help keep our organization running smoothly. Thank you so much for everything you all do! Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.*

THANK

YOU