



April is Autism Awareness Month

APRIL 2025

What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disorder that typically appears in the first three years of life, known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The term "spectrum" reflects the varying severity and unique experiences of each individual with autism. Understanding ASD can help us better understand those living with it.

Celebrate Autism Acceptance Day and Autism Awareness Month

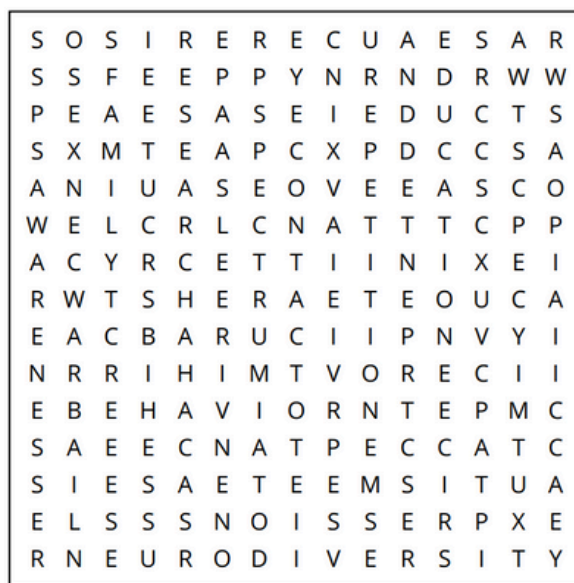
Introduction of the Infinity Symbol

While the puzzle piece has been associated with autism awareness, the infinity symbol is now the more widely accepted symbol for autism acceptance. The autistic community has expressed dissatisfaction with the puzzle piece, feeling it implies they are "missing" something or out of place, and that it suggests autism only affects children, which isn't true. They have shown support for the infinity symbol instead. A rainbow infinity symbol represents acceptance of neurodiversity, while an all-gold infinity symbolizes acceptance specifically for autism.

Recognize What Autism is Not

It's important to help the general population understand autism, especially what it is not. The saying, "if you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism," highlights that autism is a spectrum. Educating others about the diverse ways autism can manifest, and dispelling myths can foster greater acceptance of individuals with autism.

Autism Awareness



AUTISM
NEURODIVERSITY
EXPRESSIONS

BEHAVIOR
ACCEPTANCE
REPETITION

SPECTRUM
RESEARCH
EYE CONTACT

AWARENESS
EDUCATION
FAMILY

See solution key on the next page.

The language has shifted from awareness to acceptance, with some using Autism Acceptance Month instead of Awareness Month. Awareness means knowing something exists, while acceptance involves giving approval.



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

2nd World Autism Awareness Day
12th Passover Begins
14th Vaisakhi
20th Easter
30th National Therapy Animal Day





WE ALL BELONG *spotlight*

“I am so proud to be a mom of three amazing boys. Each has taught me to be a better person, more patient, and how to love in ways I can’t even describe. However, my first son taught me, not only to be a mom, but to look at the world through different eyes. His name is Billy. My son is an amazing example of strength and resilience. He opened my eyes to a different world. He is autistic and was diagnosed at the age of 4, back before there was an abundance of information regarding the word “Autism”. We had to fight to get him assistance, we studied, we learned, we even taught many school staff techniques on how to work with an autistic child. We were his voice when he didn’t speak, his teacher, his confidant, and his friend. We did not know what the future held for him, but we faced it together. He graduated from high school and has built a life where he lives on his own. However, my husband, Billy’s siblings, and I are always available to help, whenever it might be needed. I am so proud of the man he has become. He understands his struggles and his strengths and has built a community around himself. I once read a quote that states, “behind every successful autistic adult is a family who never gave up.” S.L. Coelho. This is the truest statement ever spoken. If you have questions or want to learn more about autism, feel free to reach out to me, and I will happily answer.

Tammy Lane
Certified Occupational
Therapy Assistant
Kresge Therapy Dept.

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Autism Presentations and Behaviors

Autism may present a wide range of symptoms:

- Reduced eye contact
- Closely focused interests
- Lack of facial expressions
- Differences in body language
- Not engaging in imaginative play
- Repeating gestures or sounds
- Indifference to temperature extremes

These are just a few symptoms individuals with autism may experience. A person could have some, all, or none of them. Only a qualified medical professional can diagnose autism spectrum disorder.

What Does Autism Feel Like?

Living with autism can feel overwhelming and chaotic. Sensory inputs may cause overload. One day you might feel confident, while the next, anxiety may make it hard to leave the house. Autistic individuals often struggle to ignore stimuli that others easily block out, like loud sounds or bright lights, which can lead to anxiety or outbursts. In crowded settings, they may feel disoriented or confused. However, autistic people can focus intensely on activities they love, finding deep meaning and joy in their hobbies, which may sometimes become obsessions.

Word Search Solution



If you would like to learn more...
here are some resources:



What Is Autism?



Overcomers
Counseling



A Love For
Special Learning