



APRIL IS WORLD AUTISM MONTH

RESOURCE GUIDE





INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE

Every April, Autism Speaks kicks off World Autism Month beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd.

Thousands of iconic landmarks and buildings join the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the world in support of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism and foster worldwide support. To join us or learn more, please visit AutismSpeaks.org/WAM.

HOW DOES YOUR SUPPORT BENEFIT THE AUTISM COMMUNITY?

Together, through the help of supporters like you, we continue to:

- Increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism
- Advance life-enhancing research breakthroughs
- Increase early childhood screening and timely interventions
- Improve the transition to adulthood
- Ensure access to reliable information and services throughout the life span



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WORLD
AUTISM
MONTH

 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**


DID YOU KNOW?

autism affects
an estimated **1 in 59**
CHILDREN
in the U.S.

AUTISM SPEAKS AIDED
MORE THAN
1M PEOPLE
through Autism Speaks-funded
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

autism affects
more than
70 Million
people worldwide

AUTISM SPEAKS ENGAGED
16.3 M PEOPLE
IN 172 COUNTRIES
TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING
& ACCEPTANCE DURING APRIL,
WORLD AUTISM MONTH

 AUTISM CAN BE
reliably diagnosed
around age 2
but average age remains 4

AUTISM SPEAKS ADVOCATED FOR
\$2 Billion
INCREASE IN
National Institute of Health
research budget
INCLUDING AUTISM RESEARCH


FOR MOST
Autism is a
lifelong condition

AUTISM SPEAKS CHAMPIONED
ABLE TAX-FREE
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS REACHING
\$144 M
IN TAX-ADVANTAGED FUNDS
HELPING PEOPLE WITH AUTISM



TAKE THE PLEDGE TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD

GO TO [AUTISMSPEAKS.ORG/WAM](https://autismspeaks.org/wam) TO PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT.

MAKE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT!

- **Wear Blue** – Visit [Shop.AutismSpeaks.org](https://shop.autismspeaks.org) for t-shirts, pins, wristbands and more to wear on April 2 and throughout the month.
- **Share Blue** – Share your story at [AutismSpeaks.org/WAM](https://autismspeaks.org/wam) or upload your photo to show your support using [#LightItUpBlue](https://twitter.com/LightItUpBlue).
- **Light Blue** – Light your home blue on April 2 by visiting [HomeDepot.com](https://homedepot.com) for your Autism Speaks blue lights.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Create a **Facebook fundraiser** at [Facebook.com/AutismSpeaks/Fundraisers](https://facebook.com/AutismSpeaks/Fundraisers). Click on “raise money” and add a cover photo and fundraising details.
- Register for an **Autism Speaks Walk** near you. Go to [AutismSpeaksWalk.org](https://autismspeakswalk.org) to find a location, create a team, join a team or participate on your own.
- Participate in some of the best endurance races in the world while raising funds for people with autism. Go to [AutismSpeaks.org/TeamUp](https://autismspeaks.org/teamup).

FOR INFORMATION AND RESOURCES GO TO
[AUTISMSPEAKS.ORG/WAM](https://autismspeaks.org/wam)





IN THE WORKPLACE

- **Wear Blue** – Encourage co-workers to wear blue shirts or puzzle piece pins on April 2 and throughout the month. Visit Shop.AutismSpeaks.org.
- **Share Blue** – Download free informational resources at AutismSpeaks.org/WAM/Resources to educate your co-workers on the importance of pledging to create a more inclusive world.
- **Light Blue** – Light your building, store or office blue on April 2 by visiting HomeDepot.com for your Autism Speaks blue lights.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Coordinate an office fundraising campaign throughout the month. **Pay Green to Wear Blue**, host a bake sale or sell **Puzzle Piece Pin-Up Cards** for \$1, \$3 or \$5 donations.
- Check with your employer about matching donations or visit DoubleTheDonation.com/AutismSpeaks to see if your company is listed.
- Create an employee team at an **Autism Speaks Walk** near you by visiting AutismSpeaksWalk.org.

FOR INFORMATION AND RESOURCES GO TO
AUTISMSPEAKS.ORG/WAM



Invite a local Autism Speaks representative to speak to your company. Learn more about autism and the benefits of employing people with autism.



IN SCHOOLS

- **Wear Blue** – Encourage teachers and students to wear blue shirts or puzzle piece pins on April 2 available at Shop.AutismSpeaks.org.
- **Share Blue** – Download the free **Puzzle Piece Project Tool Kit** at AutismSpeaks.org/Family-Services/Tool-Kits for lesson ideas and activities created by and for K-12 educators to help students increase their understanding and acceptance of people with autism.
- **Light Blue** – Light your classrooms using blue lights or blue decorations and share photos using **#LightItUpBlue**.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Download the free **Kids and Coins for Autism** fundraising kit to give students the opportunity to collect coins to help people living with autism. The Kids and Coins fundraising guide contains everything you need to get started!
- Have a **Puzzle Piece Pin-Up Card** fundraiser for \$1, \$3, \$5 donations to put them on display in your school.
- Create your own school-wide fundraiser throughout the month of April like a blue bake sale, dance marathon or classroom fundraising challenge

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Invite a local Autism Speaks representative to speak to your class or school about autism. Help create a more inclusive community at your school.



ABOUT AUTISM

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. We now know that there is not one autism but many subtypes, and each person with autism can have unique strengths and challenges. A combination of genetic and environmental factors influence the development of autism, and autism often is accompanied by medical issues such as GI disorders, seizures and sleep disturbances. Autism affects an estimated 1 in 59 children.

ABOUT AUTISM SPEAKS

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.



QUESTIONS? EMAIL

WAM@AutismSpeaks.org

MAIL DONATIONS TO

Autism Speaks
Attn: WAM Donations
1060 State Road, 2nd Floor
Princeton, NJ 08540