

# AUTISM NEWSLETTER

## Autism Awareness Month

Taken from the Autism Society Home Page

<https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/>

In 1970, the Autism Society launched an ongoing nationwide effort to promote autism awareness and assure that all affected by autism are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible. In 1972, the Autism Society launched the first annual National Autistic Children's week, which evolved into Autism Acceptance Month (AAM). This April, we continue our efforts to spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change.

The Autism Society of America, the nation's oldest leading grassroots autism organization, is proud to celebrate Autism Acceptance Month in April 2021 with its "Celebrate Differences" campaign. Designed to build a better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism, #CelebrateDifferences focuses on providing information and resources for communities to be more aware of autism, promote acceptance, and be more inclusive in everyday life.

The Autism Society recognizes that the prevalence of autism in the United States has risen from 1 in 125 children in 2010 to 1 in 54 in 2020 – recognizing this continued increase, the goal for AAM is to further increase awareness about autism signs, symptoms and opportunities through: information and referrals, events, printable and digital resources, and community partnerships with businesses and organizations dedicated to building inclusive experiences.

The Autism Society has a variety of resources designed to inform and encourage communities to celebrate differences, and become more inclusive of individuals with autism. The campaign will overlap with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, and continue throughout the month.

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## Attend OCALICONLINE 2022 for FREE!

The OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence) on line Conference and exposition is the nation's premier event in autism, assistive technology and low-incidence disabilities.

Don't miss your chance to attend the premier autism and disabilities conference, November 15-18. For a limited time, you can attend OCALICONLINE 2022 for free. The event is only virtual this year.

This November, everyone is invited to experience the tangible and transformative effects of inspiration into action. So we're offering everyone a chance to attend. This opportunity is only availa-

*Autism community calls on media to move from using “awareness” to “acceptance” this April to foster change and inclusivity for those affected by autism.*

<https://www.autism-society.org/releases/media-urged-to-recognize-shift-from-autism-awareness-month-to-autism-acceptance-month-this-april/>

**Rockville, MD, March 4, 2021** – Today, the Autism Society of America, along with leading disability organizations across the country, is announcing that it is formally shifting references of “Autism Awareness Month” to “Autism Acceptance Month” and is calling on the media to reflect this in their ongoing coverage.

April has widely been known as “Autism Awareness Month” in the United States as a way to empower autistic individuals and their families. Today, the autism community is calling on all media outlets to shift their language to match the growing need for acceptance within the community in preparation for any news coverage in the weeks ahead.

The shift in the use of terminology aims to foster acceptance to ignite change through improved support and opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care and comprehensive long-term services.

“While we will always work to spread awareness, words matter as we strive for autistic individuals to live fully in all areas of life,” says Christopher Banks, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America. “As many individuals and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system.”

Autism community advocates across the country have a long-standing history of using the term “acceptance” as a means of more fully integrating those 1 in every 54 Americans living with autism into our social fabric. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) has been framing April as Autism Acceptance Month since 2011, stating “Acceptance of autism as a natural condition in the human experience is necessary for real dialogue to occur.”

## STAR WEBINARS and Trainings

Virtual Webinar - May 3, 222 - 3PM - 4PM

These webinars are open to all MN educators who are using or planning to use the STAR curriculum. In these quarterly webinars, we will provide guidance on the steps of implementing STAR as well as share resources and answer individual questions.

<https://metroecu.myquickreg.com/register/user/register.cfm?eventid=16436>

## 3 Day STAR Initial (or use as a refresher) Training

August 16 - 18, 2022 in Rochester. Registration is not yet open. Contact Lynne Petersen if interested in the training.

## Upcoming Trainings

MN Autism Conference - April 27 - 29, 2022

Scott Bellini—Building Social Relationships through Evidence-Based Social Skills Programming for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders – May 10, 2022 8:00 - 3:30 AEP Connections

Ross Greene Live Interactive Webinar Moving From Power and Control to Collaboration and Problem Solving (Including Autism, Anxiety, Attention Deficits, Behavioral Issues & More!) - April 28 - 29, 2022

[https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jTtBX6A7JGJnFF2jTS\\_fN\\_fihmGrg5ETgLyafJeXXAShSeNEI5ldKbdp](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001jTtBX6A7JGJnFF2jTS_fN_fihmGrg5ETgLyafJeXXAShSeNEI5ldKbdp)