

Parent Talk

APRIL 2023

Promoting Autism Acceptance

The month of April is Autism Acceptance Month, a chance to shine a spotlight on kids on the spectrum and bring awareness to resources, supports, and services. Many of our families have kids on the spectrum, so we've outlined a list of helpful tips below to get you started on promoting autism acceptance at home, school, and in your community.

Do Your Research

If you're not already familiar with what autism is, the best first step is to read up! Autism is just one condition that falls under the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) umbrella. There are several others that you may not be as up to date on. In your research, place emphasis on understanding how these disorders specifically impact kids and their development. Look into how they are treated and what experts recommend for supports at home and in school.

Share A Resource

A great way to promote autism acceptance is to share a resource with family, friends, teachers, or other members of your community. Portrayals of autism in popular culture and the media often miss the mark and can give people an incorrect picture of what autism actually is. Look into verified sources of information from key sources such as [The Autism Society of America](#) and The Baker Center and share these with your groups.

Set A Positive Example

Modeling a positive example for your kids is a great way to make sure their friends and teachers are more accepting of autism. Explain in straightforward terms to your child what autism is and how they may even know somebody who has it. Try to place emphasis on the fact that a child with autism may think differently than your child, but that doesn't mean they can't be friends. Explain that it's very common for kids with autism to be bullied for thinking differently and encourage your child to speak up if they witness this happening.

Advocate

If you're the parent of a child with autism or just want to support kids on the spectrum, consider getting involved in a more active way. Autism is frequently misdiagnosed and misunderstood in schools due to a lack of information and advocacy. Try approaching teachers at your child's school to discuss autism. Do they have any awareness campaigns planned for Autism Acceptance Month? If not, would they let you lead the charge? What other specific supports do they have available for kids on the spectrum? Start small with these types of conversations and then try to work your way up to planning an event.

Need more help?

Resources at The Baker Center are just a click away



Therapy & Treatment Services

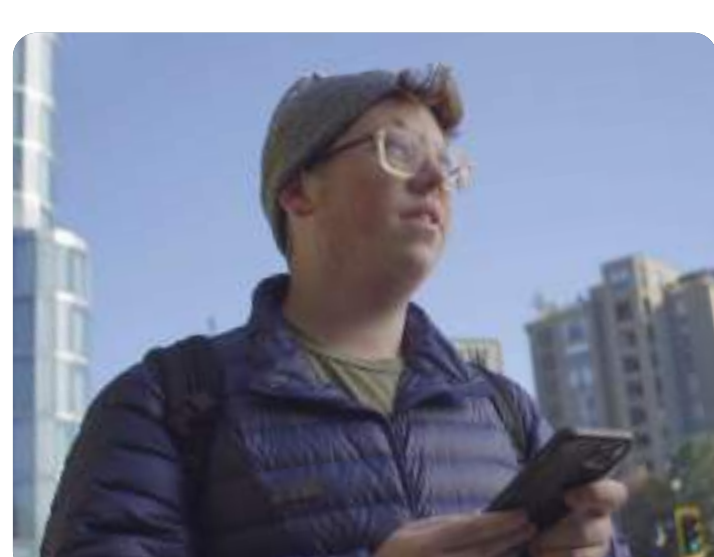
CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE THERAPY →



Therapeutic Summer Camp

CAMP BAKER →

Featured Resources



Next Step: College Success & Independent Living

Our college prep program for teens on the spectrum who are serious about attending college after high school. Next Step is uniquely designed to help build socialization skills for those who struggle and to help provide a seamless transition into college.

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Social Life in College: Adjusting to New Experiences

Next Step's upcoming Saturday Session on **April 29**. Participants will learn about social opportunities in college, social goal setting, and handling new social experiences. The day will include a visit to Northeastern University.

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