



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TITLE: Autism Awareness Month
NUMBER: MEM-066301.0
ISSUER: Beth Kauffman, Associate Superintendent
Division of Special Education
DATE: February 25, 2019

ROUTING
Elementary and Secondary
Schools
Local District Superintendents
Local District Instructional
Directors
Local District Special
Education Administrators
and Staff
School Site Administrators
Charter Division Administrators
Teachers

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides information about World Autism Awareness Day, April 2, 2019, and Autism Awareness Month, which will be held the month of April 2019.

MAJOR CHANGES: None.

BACKGROUND: World Autism Awareness Day, April 2nd, and Autism Awareness Month are events that are celebrated globally. In support and recognition of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), the Division of Special Education promotes awareness of ASD during the month of April and provides an opportunity for educators, students, and parents to learn more about autism. This memo provides ideas for school-site activities and information that can be shared with families and the community.

INSTRUCTIONS: Schools are encouraged to participate in Autism Awareness activities during the month of April. Ideas for activities are provided in the “Related Resources” section of the memorandum and in Attachment A: Ideas to Promote Autism Awareness. In addition, a graphic is available for posting. (Attachment B)

Schools that participate can share their Autism Awareness activities and events through the use of the Autism Awareness Planning Form (Attachment C) or by accessing the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/LAUSDAutismAwareness>.



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RELATED RESOURCES:

NOTE: The agencies and organizations that appear in this document do not constitute an endorsement of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Special Education; nor, should an exclusion of other websites be considered intentional. These resources serve to provide awareness to students, teachers, and parents of additional information and services.

The opinions expressed on these websites are solely those of the host website and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Special Education. Any advertising presented on these websites is solely the responsibility of the host website and not the Los Angeles Unified School District. Additionally, references, links, products or services displayed by the websites are not to be considered endorsements of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

CAPTAIN - California Autism Professional Training and Information Network

CAPTAIN is a multiagency network developed to support the understanding and use of evidence-based practices (EBPs) for individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) across the state of California.

<http://www.captain.ca.gov/>

Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules (AFIRM)

AFIRM modules are designed to help participants learn the step-by-step process of planning for, using, and monitoring an Evidence Based Practice with learners with ASD from birth to 22 years of age. Supplemental materials and handouts are available for download.

<http://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/afirm-modules>

Autism Distance Education Parent Training (ADEPT)

Ten self-paced, online learning modules for parents with tools and training to more effectively teach their child with autism and other related neurodevelopmental disorders functional skills using applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques.

http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/cedd/cedd_adept.html

Autism Speaks Toolkit Resources

Autism Speaks has a number of resources available to assist in awareness activities including ideas and lesson plans that can assist schools in raising awareness for individuals with autism and their families within the school site and their communities.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/puzzle-piece-project-tool-kit>



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**RELATED
RESOURCES
(Continued):**

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Autism Fact Sheets and Science Briefs

The CHLA Autism Fact Sheets and Science Briefs are available in 14 languages.

Fact Sheets: <http://www.uscucedd.org/publications-resources/autism-pubs/autism-fact-sheets>

Science Briefs: <http://www.uscucedd.org/publications-resources/autism-pubs/autism-science-briefs>

Interacting with Autism

A video-based website that presents evidence-based information about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

<http://www.interactingwithautism.com/>

CDC “Learn the Signs. Act Early” Campaign

This CDC program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Symbol Stix Supported Personal Emergency Profile from the National Autism Association

N2Y provides this planning document to assist first-responders.

<https://www.n2y.com/blog/blog/personal-emergency-profile-now-available/>

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information, please contact:

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Ideas to Promote Autism Awareness	
Have daily/weekly school-wide public service announcements sharing information about autism.	Designate a day for students and staff to wear blue in support of Autism Awareness.
Share Autism Awareness videos with staff during staff meetings. (see attachment A)	Tie multicolored ribbons to the fence (red, blue, yellow) and leave it up for the month.
Hold a fundraiser and donate proceeds to Autism Speaks or Autism Society.	Have an Autism Awareness poster contest or display posters around your school. (see attachment B)
Create a bulletin board in the main office of your school to share autism facts and promote Autism Awareness with the community.	Have a bulletin board decorating contest that includes facts about autism.
Add Autism Awareness facts to weekly bulletins.	Have students design and create their own bookmarks to promote autism awareness.
Visit the Autism Speaks Puzzle Piece Project Toolkit for ideas on lessons, book lists, videos, and more activities. https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/puzzle-piece-project-tool-kit	Have student council or school leadership class create posters with key facts about autism and display them across school campus.
Acknowledge (special award, school wide announcement, luncheon etc.) teachers, parents, and staff members at school sites that have been supportive in providing inclusive environments for students with autism.	Have a photo booth where any students, parents or staff members can take pictures with props such as puzzle pieces, Autism Awareness frames, and/or special backgrounds to help promote Autism Awareness.

Autism Awareness Video Resource List

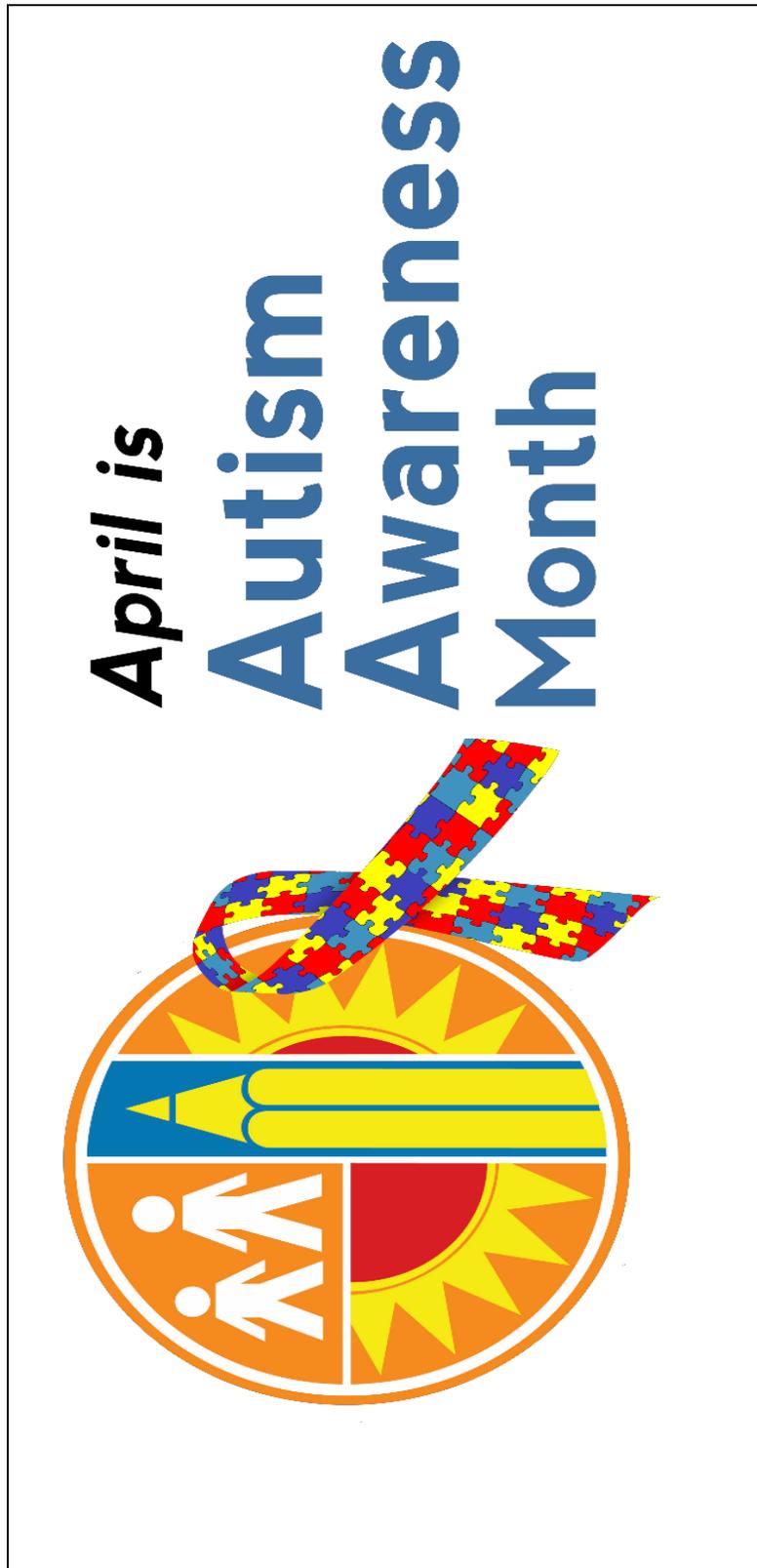
(Google account sign in required)

- “Intro to Autism for Kids” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGdZdTtY5c
- “My Autism and Me” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejpWWP1HNGQ
- "Amazing Things Happen" – <https://youtu.be/7JdCY-cdgkI>
- “What Autism Feels Like” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=M20DIK1Yt3A
- “The Brain of An Autistic Child” (recommended for high school)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2o6KYIw2yww
- “Autism — what we know (and what we don't know yet)”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKIMcLTqRLs
- “What it feels like to be autistic” – Temple Grandin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qPFAT4p8Lc>



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ATTACHMENT B





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ATTACHMENT C

Autism Awareness Planning Form

School Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

Instructions: Use this planning sheet to record the activities planned and implemented during World Autism Awareness Day and/or Autism Awareness Month. You can use suggested ideas for awareness activities or come up with your own ideas. You can share them here:

<https://tinyurl.com/LAUSDAutismAwareness>

Activities that Promote Autism Awareness	Activities that Increase Knowledge About Autism	Activities that Increase Inclusiveness of Our Students With Autism

School sites are encouraged to share their answers to this form through the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/LAUSDAutismAwareness>