



AUTISM ALLIANCE

Empowering Families for 30 Years

a program of  Advocates

May Newsletter

The Autism Alliance Turns 30

The Autism Alliance Story

It all started in a local church basement, back in 1993, when a group of six families, all with children diagnosed on the autism spectrum, gathered to try and wrap their heads around this shattering diagnosis. The families supported one another, sharing vital resources including doctors, teachers and therapies. At that time, rates of autism were 1 in every 1,000 births and the internet was not part of our everyday lives. Resources surrounding autism were not easily accessible. [Read the full story.](#)



Workshops & Support Groups



NEW Mom's Self-Care Group
Thursday, May 18th
12noon to 1pm | Virtual

Our virtual, monthly "Let's Build a Village" program is for MetroWest moms who would like to grow their "village" by connecting with other moms. This program is fun, fabulous, and free and is sponsored by the Autism Alliance. It is an opportunity for moms of children with autism within the MetroWest area to bond with other moms by sharing laughs while lifting each other up. Moms, this is self-care at its very best and is just for YOU!! Our hope is that we can build our village and eventually meet as a group, in person.

[To Register](#)




Autism Alliance Brain Chat featuring Coach Allison Marean
Tuesday May 23rd
12:00noon to 1pm | Virtual

Our virtual, monthly Brain Chat is for parents and caregivers who want more strategies and an opportunity to ask specific questions to expert Coach Allison H. Marean, M.Ed., CLY. from Successfully Social New England. **It is an opportunity to ask questions**, be a part of our community and/or just listen and learn from others. After you sign up, a few days before the group you will receive the Zoom link.

[Submit a question](#)

Guest Speaker
Jill Vetstein LICSW, MSW, CEIS
Psychotherapist for Children, Parents and Adults



Sibling Rivalry

Understand what causes siblings to fight or argue with one another. Learn the tips to stopping the sibling rivalry and restore the peace in your home!

Tuesday May 23rd
6:30pm-7:30pm | Virtual

Workshop with Jill Vetstein LICSW, MSW, CEIS Psychotherapist

Topic: Sibling Rivalry

Tuesday May 23rd

6:30pm to 7:30pm | Virtual

Understand what causes siblings to fight or argue with one another. Learn the tips to stopping the sibling rivalry and restore the peace in your home! Click on Zoom link to join.

[Zoom Link](#)



Autism Alliance support groups are for families who have children with an autism spectrum disorder. Our groups are a safe and relaxed space for parent and caregivers to feel more confident and less isolated. Click below for zoom links.

Note: Support groups are off for the summer. We will see you all again in the fall.

Just for Dads

May 3

Parents of children
age 10 and under

May 17

Portuguese Speaking

May 22



[May Sibshop click on the link to register!](#)

Sibshops provide young brothers and sisters with peer support and information in a lively, recreational setting. Sibshops are lively events where they will: **Meet** other sibs (usually for the first time); **Have** fun; **Talk** about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs with others who “get it”; **Play** some great games. **Explore** how other brother and sisters handle sticky situations sometimes faced by brothers and sisters; **Laugh!** **Learn** about the services their brothers and sister receive; and **have** some more fun!

To Register

Community Recreation

Dave & Buster's Natick location is now offering NEW monthly sensory-friendly hour starting Saturday May 6th.
9:30am to 10:30am



DAVE &
BUSTER'S

[Dave and Buster's of Natick](#) are now offering sensory-friendly store hours the first Saturday of the month before regular business hours. Drop by between 9:30am to 10:30am where the large screen TV's will be turned off, decreased number of people, and designed "quiet area" with sensory kits available. Be sure to speak to a staff member if you have any questions or need help.



Advocates See Me 5K, Run, Walk, and Roll
Saturday, May 6
9:00am to 12:30pm
DCR Hopkinton State Park

[Advocates See Me 5K Run, Walk, and Roll](#)

Join us to celebrate all abilities and help spread the message that a person experiencing any challenge is a person, not a diagnosis! There will be plenty of fun for the whole family!

Technology, Employment, Benefits & More



Disability Benefits and Transition Age Youth
Thursday May 4
3:00pm to 5:00pm
Training will be online.

[FREE to register Online.](#)

Who should attend:

If you work with or support a young person with a disability who is approaching the transition from school to adult life this training is for you. Family members, educators, adult service providers and service coordinators are all encouraged to attend.



[AFAM's 18th Annual Autism Advocacy Day:](#)

"Services and Supports Can't Wait-Systemic Change Now!"

Monday, May 8th
10:00am to 11:00am

The Great Hall | Massachusetts State House



Assistive Technology Fair - Metro Region

Monday May 8

1:00pm to 5:00pm

Boston Marriott Newton

2345 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02466

Participant Registration

Join us for an afternoon of visiting with Assistive Technology vendors in the ballroom, participating in demonstrations, attending presentations, and learning about new technology to support independence.

**Act now.
Stay covered.**

MassHealth Eligibility Redeterminations

MassHealth needs to renew coverage for all members to make sure they are still eligible and receive the best benefit they qualify for

MassHealth Members! Due to the COVID-19 emergency, MassHealth has been maintaining your health coverage, but soon we will be returning to normal eligibility renewal processes. This means **we must renew all members** to make sure they still qualify for their current MassHealth coverage. Make sure to check all mail from MassHealth. You may need to take action to get the best benefit you qualify for. Here's what you can do now to make your renewal process easier.

[Learn More](#)

SafetyNet Federal Grants Available

The Framingham Police Dept. has received a federal grant for SafetyNet and will support any family in Framingham with a child at risk on the SafetyNet program at no cost. Other towns may also apply for grant. Click on the link to learn more.



Did you miss seeing one of our featured guest speakers? If so, click on the link and you will see the recordings on the Autism Alliance of MetroWest YouTube Channel.

YouTube

Please submit requests for accommodations, including ASL interpreters, at least 2 weeks prior to the event date to AutismAlliance@advocates.org or call (508) 652-9900

Connect With Us



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