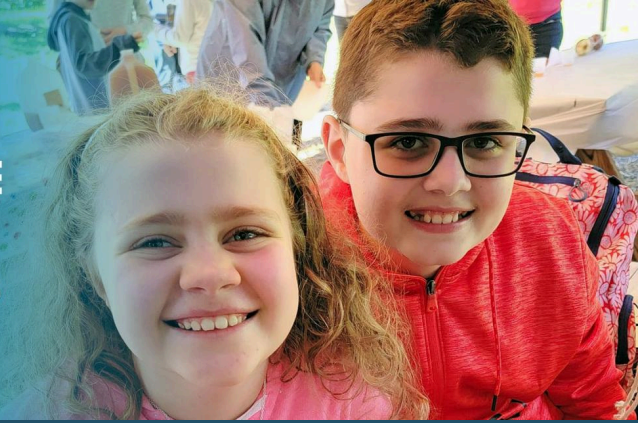




a program of  Advocates



Autism Alliance Newsletter | April 2024

Autism Acceptance Month



April at the Natick Mall
Stop by our kiosk!



When you have a family member with autism or other sensory sensitivities, even everyday outings can present challenges. The Autism Alliance is pleased to partner with the [Natick Mall](#) and the [Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism](#) to better serve individuals with autism and their families.

Through our Autism WelcomingSM trainings, Natick Mall businesses learn how to welcome individuals and families, creating a more inclusive community for all. **All ages - families, educators, therapists, and friends are invited to stop by our Autism WelcomingSM information cart on the lower level by Abercrombie & Fitch throughout the month of April for give-a-ways, fun prizes and learn more about the certified businesses at the Natick Mall. [Autism Acceptance Month at the Natick Mall](#) | [Autism Alliance](#)**



Autism Welcoming

Advocates | Autism Alliance

Autism Welcoming NEW LOOK

Some observant folks may have spotted our exciting news: Autism Welcoming has a new look! The program's signage and materials now appear a bit different, thanks to an updated name and beautiful new logo. When we launched the program in 2019, its name – Autism Welcoming Initiative – reflected our efforts to start a wave of autism acceptance and sensory responsiveness among local businesses. Thanks to our community, the initiative took hold, and we've now certified dozens of organizations and shared our work across the country. Our new name, Autism Welcoming, signifies all the ways we've grown over the past five years – and all the ways we hope to grow and evolve in the years ahead.



With this updated name comes an updated logo, and we think our new visual identity reflects the Autism Welcoming spirit of community and celebration of diversity. We hope you agree! Of course, our name and logo aren't the only exciting happenings at Autism Welcoming! There's lots more going on as our program grows. We're currently building a new website to enhance supports offered to certified businesses, and we're also rolling out a program to offer [free Autism Welcoming certification to dental practices](#). As if this weren't enough, we recently learned that we'll have additional Autism Welcoming news to share in the months ahead, so make sure to follow [Advocates](#) and [Autism Alliance](#) on Facebook to keep current on all that's in store!

April Vacation Programs

"Let's make pizza!"
California Pizza Kitchen
Tuesday April 16 | 10:00-11:30am

All ages are welcome to register for this NEW vacation private program at the California Pizza Kitchen restaurant. We will have games, crafts, chef hats, aprons, and make our own pizza. Spaces are limited.

[Register Here](#)



"Let's go to the movies!"
Framingham AMC Theatres
Wednesday April 17 | 10:00am

All ages are welcome to register to attend this private movie rental at AMC Theatres in Framingham featuring Kung Fu Panda 4.

[Register Here](#)



"Let's play mini golf!"
Trombetta's Farm
Thursday April 18 | 9:00am

Ages 12 and under are welcome to register for our annual mini golf tournament featuring a fun round of golf, activities and snacks.

[Register Here](#)



Autism Alliance Receives Autism Community Impact Grant from Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation



Doug Flutie Jr.
Foundation for Autism

A Special Thank You to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism for Sponsoring this months' vacation events. To learn more about our grant funding. [Read on.](#)

April & May Guest Speakers

Applying for Housing for people with disabilities in Massachusetts

April 30th, 2024
6:30pm -8:00pm

This presentation walks families and professionals through the range of affordable and subsidized housing options available to people with disabilities in Massachusetts. A strategy for completing a basic set of applications and tracking them over time is presented.

[Zoom Link](#)

Understanding Different Avenues for Language Development

May 21st, 2024
6:30pm -7:30pm

Join Speech-Language Pathologist Megan Romanczyk from Boston Ability Center, in learning about the differences between analytic and gestalt language development. This talk will explore developmental milestones, language development strategies for analytic and gestalt language processors, and more.

[Zoom Link](#)



Did you miss seeing one of our guest speakers?

You can find the recordings on the [Autism Alliance YouTube Channel](#).



Autism Alliance Support Groups

Just for Dads Support Group

First Wednesday of Every Month

Next Date: April 3 | 7:00-8:30pm

Morse Institute Library | **Study Room 2B**

14 East Central Street | Natick, MA



Autism Support Group for Parents of Children Aged 10 and Under

First Wednesday of Every Month

Next Date: April 3 | 12:00-1:00pm

Location: Virtual | Drop-in's welcome



Mom's Self-Care Support Group

Third Thursday of Every Month

Next Date: April 18 | 12:00-1pm

Location: Virtual | Contact: [Penny Anderson](#)



Portuguese Speaking Support Group

Fourth Monday of Every Month

Next Date: April 22 | 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Virtual | Drop-in's welcome



Autism Transit Project is coming to Massachusetts and the MBTA!

This project offers children on the spectrum the chance to record a regular subway service announcement that would then be played throughout the MBTA transit system in April for Autism Acceptance Month. Any child in Massachusetts who might like to have their own voice heard making an MBTA announcement that riders hear every day can email me or -- better yet! -- have their family email us at:

autismtransitproject@foundrylearningcenter.com.

Those that are interested can email the following information:

Guardian's name | Phone number | Child / Participant's name|

Child/Participant's age| General area where you live: Everyone who emails will receive a reply with next steps and instructions. To see more:

[Autism Transit Project](#)

AFAM's 19th Annual Autism Advocacy Day



An Unbearable Wait: The Burden Placed on the Autism Community by the Workforce Crisis.

AFAM welcomes you to join self-advocates, family members, caregivers and professionals supporting the autism community, as well as our elected and appointed officials. This is an in-person event with remote option through Facebook. Tuesday, April 9, 2024, | 10:30am – 11:30am EST

[Register Here](#)

Now available -- 2024 Autism Advocacy Day T-Shirts!

Wear your pride for autism advocacy with our event t-shirt, designed and produced by Spectrum Designs, an organization hiring exclusively neurodiverse individuals.



[Buy Your T-Shirt](#)

**Boston Medical Center
April Virtual Resource Fair**



Virtual Resource Fair

For families, friends
and professionals!

Thursday, April 18th 2024

1:00pm -2:30pm EST

Via Zoom

Please RSVP to
autismprogram@bmc.org

to receive the zoom link

- AANE
- Arc of Greater Brockton
- Autism Alliance
- Autism Insurance Resource Center of Massachusetts
- BILT Inc.
- The Circle of Vietnamese Parents and Friends
- Vinfen

and more!



autismprogram@bmc.org



www.bmc.org/autism

Summer Camp Resources and Support



For a full list of summer camps 2024

Connect With Us



www.AutismAlliance.org | (508) 652-9900 | AutismAlliance@Advocates.org
1881 Worcester Road, Suite 100A, Framingham, MA 01701

Donate

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

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

