



AUTISM ALLIANCE

Empowering Families for 30 Years

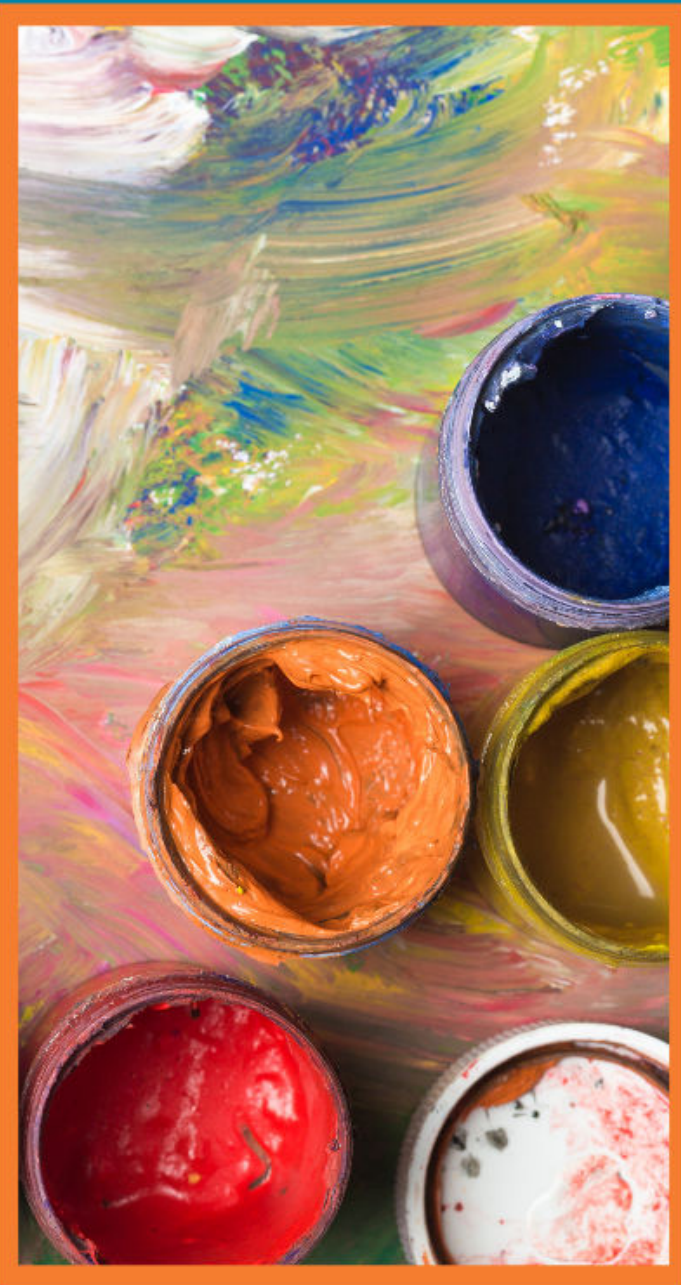
a program of  **Advocates**



January Newsletter

Autism Alliance is turning 30 years old!!

We will be celebrating all year long with exclusive FREE programs and special family events! Don't miss out on the fun!



Autism
Welcoming

AUTISM ALLIANCE

Empowering Families for 30 Years

PLASTER FUNTIME

The Plaster Painting Place Where Kids Do It Their Way

Monday, January 16

9:00am - 11:00am

Plaster FunTime | Marlborough | Autism Welcoming Business

Monday, January 16th (Martin Luther King Day)

9:00am -11:00am

Autism Alliance will have the entire store exclusively for YOU!! We will meet new friends, paint some creative designs and enjoy a delicious snack in a fun, judgment free, sensory friendly environment. You must register for this event; you will receive a confirmation email; and we will have a waiting list.

[Register](#)

Newly certified Autism Welcoming Business



Family Promise Metrowest
6 Mulligan Street
Natick, MA 01760

The mission of the Family Promise is to transform the lives of families with children that are facing homelessness by mobilizing a diverse community to provide shelter, education, and comprehensive support.

Family Promise serve low- and moderate-income families with at least one child under the age of 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our families are Massachusetts residents, with priority given to families from the Metrowest region. We welcome all genders and family compositions as long as all adults were part of the nuclear family and living together when the family became homeless.


One of the many benefits of our new, on-site shelter is that we now have the capacity to safely house children with special needs. Our building is now fully accessible, and we have the flexibility and resources to adapt spaces to meet different family requirements.

The Family Promise of MetroWest took our first step toward becoming an even more inclusive organization by inviting the Autism Alliance of MetroWest to our Day Center to provide an “Autism Welcoming Business” training for our entire staff.

Executive Co-Directors Allison Daigle and Pam McKillop offered an engaging and comprehensive training that they’d carefully customized for our shelter setting, and they left us with scores of ideas for making sure our space would be welcoming for these special kids. They also left us with a toolkit of supplies to share with families, designed to meet the unique needs of a person with autism. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

January Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker
 Caileen Harvey M.A., CCC-SLP from
 Boston Speech and OT Specialists



"Climbing the Language Mountain: Will my child with ASD ever speak?"

Tuesday January 24th | 6:30 p.m.

Caileen Harvey M.A., CCC-SLP from Boston Speech and OT Specialists
Tuesday January 24, 2023
6:30pm – 7:30pm

"Climbing the Language Mountain: Will my child with ASD ever speak?" This was presented at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association's national conference. It focuses on all the foundational skills that come before words, and how to meet your child at their level to help them grow through those communicative levels. Click on the link learn more about our guest speaker and to register.

Register

Sibshop



January 28, 2023 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm EST
Pinz Bowling
110 South Main Street
Milford, MA 01757

We are kicking off 2023 at Pinz Bowling. **Please register below for this fun event.** Our Sibshop is for brothers and sisters (age 7-12) of children with autism. This is an opportunity for boys and girls to meet one another, to talk about the joys and challenges of having a sibling with autism, and to have fun.

Register

Parent Brain Chat Lunchtime Q & A

AUTISM ALLIANCE

NEW

Parent Brain Chat

A Monthly Lunchtime Q & A

perfect way for parents to ask an expert questions and get support on the spot.

SOCIAL
 Pinz England

Autism Alliance Brain Chat featuring Coach Allison Marean

Tuesday January 24

12:00 noon

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. This is a virtual community call that meets once a month for an hour is **FREE** and sponsored by the Autism Alliance. **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.

Brain Chat

January Support Groups



 **AUTISM ALLIANCE**

Parent Support

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.

Just for Dads

January 4th

Parents of children
age 10 and under

January 18

Portuguese Speaking

January 30



Must be DDS eligible
in Middlesex West

Teen Digital Music

AGES 14-19



The Autism Alliance in partnership with Meridian Music Therapy is offering a music-based program that fosters experiences that are used as interventions designed to combat isolation symptoms and support socialization.



Virtual Music Therapy: Digital Music
Thursday's 6:15 pm- 7:00 pm
2x a month | Runs through May 2023
Ages 14-19

The Autism Alliance in partnership with Meridian Music Therapy is offering a music-based program that fosters experiences that are used as interventions designed to combat isolation symptoms, support socialization, self-regulation, and self-validation. This program is facilitated by Anthony C. Varga, DMA, MT-BC, NMT
All participants MUST be eligible for services through DDS Middlesex West Area Office and have autism. This includes the following towns: Ashland, Dover, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlboro, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough. If you have any questions, please email, or call us! We are looking forward to seeing you!

Apply

Special Art for Kids



Special Art for Kids Virtual | Tuesdays 5:45pm-6:45pm

Art can help kids improve their learning processes, hand eye coordination, and communication skills. This weekly online high-school student led virtual art program is for young artists. Projects have included: drawn cartoons, Mother's Day cards, origami cranes, birds, and more. Classes are Tuesday nights from 5:45 to 6:45 PM EST. All you need is colored pencils and markers; any colors are fine. Siblings are welcome.

Register

January Sensory- Friendly Community Events



Morningstar Access at Boston Children's Museum Saturday, January 7, 2023, 8:00am-10:00am

Mask Optional Masks are recommended but not required for visitors. The Museum staff will wear masks when interacting with visitors. **Morningstar Access Admission: A link to pay online will be sent a week prior to your visit.**

Half price general admission (\$10.00 per person)

Free for Museum members

Other discounts may apply (such as the EBT/WIC discount)

Registration is required and available on the Museum's website.



Apex Sensory Friendly Hour Sunday January 1, 10:00am to 11:00am

The first Sunday of each month from 10am-11am friends and families can come visit [Apex Entertainment](#) for some fun in a sensory welcoming environment!

We want to ensure that everyone feels included and welcome at Apex Entertainment! Through the guidance of the Autism Alliance, we have created our Sensory Friendly Sundays! Every first Sunday of the month, we offer special accommodations such as: reduced lighting and sound, sunglasses, sensory toys, and quiet rooms.

We are excited to share these experiences with our community and look forward to seeing you there! If you are interested in a sensory friendly birthday party or social event, please contact us at (508) 251-8666



Autism-Friendly Evenings

Saturday, January 7th, 5pm to 8pm

[TO REGISTER](#)

Come join in all the fun and explore the accessible Discovery Museum and Discovery Woods during this special evening event for families with members on the autism spectrum. Your family can play, explore, experiment, and imagine together, while we are closed to the general public and headcount is limited. ASL interpretation may be available upon request.

Dinner, including a gluten-free option, will be provided. *Advance registration is required. **These Especially for Me events are offered in collaboration with Autism Alliance of MetroWest.***



NEW Sensory- Friendly Hours - Walk-in's Welcome

Sunday January 8th

10:00am - 11:00am

Plaster Fun Time is a newly certified Autism Welcoming Business. Staff have been trained and we now have everyday accommodations to help make your visit more enjoyable and successful. Be sure to ask us about our visual supports and other materials we have available for your visit.

Plaster Fun Time Marlborough will host a **sensory-friendly autism welcoming hour from 10:00am -11:00am on the second Sunday of every month** featuring accommodations such as reduced lighting and noise, customized visual support, and quiet area available for those trying a new activity in the community who will benefit from a private space if things get overwhelming.

Healthy Happenings Emails



AUTISM ALLIANCE

Healthy Happenings

Weekly resources targeted
to your family's unique needs.

In case you missed one, or want to check back in, our Healthy Heroes is now **Healthy Happenings emails** which are published weekly for up-to-date Autism Alliance programming and community resources designed to keep you connected and supported. You can find these archived on our website along with our current and past monthly newsletters.



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 (508) 652-9900

Connect With Us



www.AutismAlliance.org | (508) 652-9900 | AutismAlliance@Advocates.org
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Donate

Our Contact Information

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