

## March Programs

### **WINTER SESSION**

#### **Virtual After School Zoo Club**

Friday Afternoon

**March 8 - April 26 | 4:00-4:30pm**

Virtual

Ages 5-12 are welcome to register for this our 8 week after-school zoo club program featuring Diana from the Roger William Zoo.

[Register Today](#)



### **NEW PROGRAM**

#### **Outdoor Adventure Program**

Friday Afternoon

**March 8 - April 12 | 4:30-6:30pm**

YMCA | Hopkinton

Ages 12-17 are welcome to register for this our new outdoor adventure program in partnership with the YMCA. This is open to all abilities.

[Apply Here](#)



## Let's Build a Village In-Person Programs at the Natick Mall

### **NEW PROGRAM**

#### **Mom's Walking Group**

Friday Morning

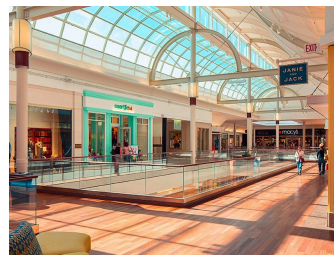
**March 1st -April 5th**

**9:30-10:30am**

Natick Mall, Vibe

Join us for conversation, connection, and cardio! **Children welcome!**

[More Information](#)



**NEW PROGRAM**

**Mom's Snack and Shop**

Thursday

**March 14 | 5:00-7:00pm**

Natick Mall, Vibe

Join us for conversation, light snacks, window shopping shenanigans, and maybe a surprise or two. **Children welcome!**

[More Information](#)



## March Guest Speaker Cathy Boyle of Autism Housing Pathways

**Housing 101 "Thinking about housing"**

March 19th, 2024

6:30pm-8:00pm

This presentation is "Housing 101" for parents. "Thinking about housing" introduces families to the range of public funds available to pay for housing and supportive services (including for those without DDS supports).

[Learn More](#)



**Did you miss seeing one of our guest speakers?**

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



## Autism Alliance Family in the News

The MetroWest Daily News recently spotlighted Holliston senior wrestler Zak Robinson who shares a 'special bond' with brother on the autism spectrum [Read on](#).

## Discovery Museum Sensory-Friendly Evening for Visitors 18+

Join us during this special free evening for visitors 18 years and older with **developmental disabilities**, including having autism or Downs Syndrome, and their families or caregivers. Enjoy a fun, friendly experience in our accessible and universally designed museum while exploring our interactive exhibits and participating in hands-on activities. The Museum will be closed to the



general public during the event. Dinner, including a gluten-free option, will be provided.  
Saturday, April 6, 2024, 5pm to 8pm

[Register Here](#)

## Support Groups

### [Just for Dads Support Group](#)

First Wednesday of Every Month

**Next Date: March 6 | 7:00-8:30pm**

Morse Institute Library | **Study Room 1C**  
14 East Central Street | Natick, MA



### [Autism Support Group for Parents of Children Aged 10 and Under](#)

First Wednesday of Every Month

**Next Date: March 6 | 12:00-1:00pm**

Location: Virtual | Drop-in's welcome



### [Portuguese Speaking Support Group](#)

Fourth Monday of Every Month

**Next Date: March 25 | 6:30-8:30pm**

Location: Virtual | Drop-in's welcome



### [Mom's Self-Care Support Group](#)

Third Thursday of Every Month

**Next Date: March 21 | 12:00-1pm**

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



## NEW MassHealth Member Advisory Committee

MassHealth is excited to announce the formation of a new MassHealth Member Advisory Committee (MAC) in the summer of 2024. The MAC will engage MassHealth members and their families to improve quality and access to care for MassHealth members.

Please see attached MAC One-Page Overview flyer for information on how to get involved. Alternate formats and languages of the attached flyer can be found [here](#).

[Learn More](#)

## Building an Autism Welcoming Community



# Autism Welcoming

Advocates | Autism Alliance

## Autism Welcoming Opportunity for Dentists

For people with autism or other sensory sensitivities and their families, even everyday outings can present challenges. The Autism Alliance, a program of Advocates, trains businesses on how to welcome individuals and families by making small but impactful accommodations to their locations.



In partnership with MassHealth, and thanks to funding from the Department of Developmental Services, **Autism Welcoming certification is now available free of charge for dental practices in Massachusetts.**

Interested in learning more? [Join us for an informational webinar](#) to learn about becoming a certified Autism Welcoming dental practice.

[Learn More](#)

When you have a family member with autism or other sensory sensitivities, even everyday outings can present challenges. Autism Welcoming<sup>SM</sup>, businesses take extra steps to create an accepting and inclusive environment by educating staff and making simple but impactful accommodations to their locations.

Looking for sensory-friendly fun this winter? [Check out offerings at our certified Autism Welcoming businesses.](#)

## Connect With Us



[www.AutismAlliance.org](http://www.AutismAlliance.org) | (508) 652-9900 | [AutismAlliance@Advocates.org](mailto: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](mailto:AutismAlliance@advocates.org) or call (508) 652-9900*

**Our Contact Information**  
\*{{(Organization Name)}}\*  
\*{{(Organization Address)}}\*  
\*{{(Organization Phone)}}\*  
\*{{(Organization Website)}}\*



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