



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the April 2023 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by members of The Florida Youth Council! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC wrote about Autism Acceptance Month. This allowed members to share, express and explore their personal insights, experiences and memories. We hope you enjoy learning about our experiences and our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

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Autism Acceptance

What's the difference between autism awareness and acceptance? Awareness means that you know the person exists. Acceptance means you are happy to see that person. Why should we change the language from awareness to acceptance? It is why the month of April is in celebration of people with Autism. Approximately one child in every hundred is diagnosed with ASD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, with boys having higher numbers than girls. People with Autism face challenges in three main areas: communication, social interaction, and behavior. It doesn't matter what your skin color is, where you live, or whether you're rich or poor. Autism does not discriminate.

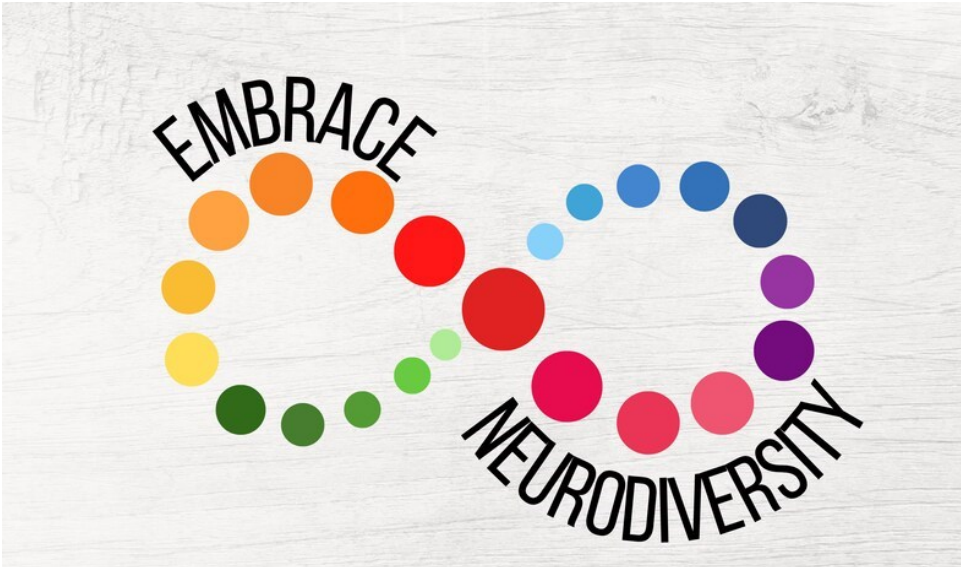
Many neurotypicals often misunderstand how individuals with Autism operate, but for individuals with Autism, each person is different on a case-by-case basis. Of course, routine often plays a factor for people with Autism, and change is hard to handle, but over time we all face the challenges of pursuing a job, figuring out ourselves, or falling in love. But for anyone with Autism, these things can become more burdensome. Romance will require patience and a certain acceptance, as many people with Autism have difficulty expressing emotion. Individuals with Autism navigate through the stormy waters of adolescence in some ways, but it will calm the waters with the right help and support.

Ultimately, we show tenderness and assets to all people with Autism. It is a long journey to prosperity. Although the challenges are often difficult to overcome, the development of the journey leads to learning and growing. The harsh reality that many people will go through is a lack of comprehension, approval, and compassion. Society will still undermine the struggles that many people with Autism face and bear any negative connotations that subside the hardships of environmental provocations. No matter where the journey may lead, it all takes the balance of support, understanding, and friendship.

By Alex Gonzalez



Why We Should Celebrate Autism Acceptance



Acceptance is so important. 85% of autistic adults are unemployed, which is way higher than the 4.5% unemployment rate for those adults without autism. This is mostly because of ignorance and misunderstandings about autism. Education is so important and will lead to

acceptance. And acceptance will lead to more opportunities, including employment.

People need to see autistic people in books, stories, tv, film, social media, etc. that way they will begin to understand the diagnosis. And realize that since it is a spectrum, each autistic person is different from another.

Employers need to be open minded and give autistic employees a chance and be willing to make accommodations where needed. For example, eye contact during an interview might not be possible for some. And should not be held against them, especially if the job doesn't require eye contact.

At the end of the day, everybody is a person and should be given equal opportunity to shine. Acceptance will break down barriers and give autistic people more opportunities.

By JJ Humphrey



Autism Acceptance

Why should autism be accepted? Well like any other disability that someone might have, people who have autism want people to accept them and be treated like anyone else who doesn't have autism. This includes having friends, having the same opportunities as others in school, in a career path, and any other area in life they want to achieve.

Autism can come in different shapes and forms and have varying degrees of severity on the spectrum. Part of acceptance is providing the appropriate resources to those who have autism so they can succeed in every area of their life they wish to so tell everyone you know that April is Autism Awareness Month so more can be aware of this.

By Derek Carraway



APRIL IS NATIONAL
AUTISM
AWARENESS
MONTH



Autism Acceptance

There are many people in the world who have autism. It is not uncommon for society to look down on those with Autism, they can often make them feel as if they are not accepted as people. That should end now. One way we can do that is by celebrating autism acceptance.

What autism acceptance does is it allows people to look back at all the amazing stuff that people with autism have done and continue to do. It allows those people with autism to know that they are just like everyone else and that there is no reason to feel about themselves. If people around the world started celebrating autism acceptance, then more people with autism would accept themselves.

There is no reason to not accept people with autism, they are able to do the same things as everyone and maybe more. Also, if people started celebrating autism acceptance, then they will start getting in the habit of accepting other people with other disabilities other than autism. Please take what I have shared into consideration, because the more people that do, the better this world will be for everyone.

By James Kuhlman



Creating a Brighter Future for All

Like people with many disabilities, those with Autism need to be accepted and cherished for the gifts they bring to this world. Many people do not know much about autism spectrum disorder but something like one percent of people in the world can fit this diagnosis. If you think about it, that is a lot of people, so let's all get informed.

According to the CDC, 1 in 44 children have received the diagnosis and it is 4 times more prevalent in boys than in girls. It is also found in every ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic group. This means that autism is everywhere. More than likely you already know one of more people who are autistic, or you may have autism yourself. Off the top of my head, I can think of at least ten people I know personally and interact with regularly. Like everyone else on the planet, they can be very smart, loving, generous, and creative. They are individuals who deserve respect and if you get to know them you will find that they have unique perspectives on the world.

I'm not going to say that working with people with autism is always easy, but that can just be because they see the world in a different way. Because they may interpret what you say in a different way than you intended, it becomes very important for the rest of us to make a bigger effort to understand



them. Often, this creates an opportunity for developing a truly great friendship. If everyone in the world would take these opportunities to accept each other, I believe the world would be a much more loving place.

By Serena Wetmore

Why Should We Celebrate Autism Acceptance?

I think autism acceptance should be celebrated, particularly because this month, April, is autism acceptance month. Autism Acceptance Month or AAM is a month-long celebration devoted to raising advocacy for and awareness of autism spectrum disorder. This year marks the 50th anniversary of AAM, which was founded by the autism society in 1972 to spread awareness, promote acceptance and ignite change.

While efforts are ongoing throughout the year, each April marks a hallmarked time dedicated to recognizing our differences to celebrate them. According to the AS, acceptance means “creating a world where everyone in the autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it.” To that end, the month’s theme is “celebrating differences,” to help highlight that our unique quirks- our differences - make us who we are. And who we are should be celebrated.

By Leah Gorman





Autism Acceptance

Many autistic children and adults don't understand the reason they aren't accepted into everyday group activities; this can in part be because of their disability.

Some individuals may be bullied for their behavior that is part of their autism. People who do understand autism and autistic behavior will generally be more accepting of them because they understand them and understand what they have been through.



One struggle those with autism often go through is getting a good paying and understanding job. It is hard to find employers that understand autism and what comes with it. There are employers that just don't care about disabilities and do not want to take the time to understand and work with the disabled communi-

ty. This why it is so important to have acceptance for the disabled community in general.

People may just want to put a label on others even though we have made so much progress to get away from that we still have people that act like that today. That is not acceptable, it is important for everyone learn what autism is so more people would be more willing to accept all people in the disabled community.

By Morgan Griffin



How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round.

We hope to hear from you soon!



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