

April Newsletter-

Hope you all are enjoying the warm spring weather! Since Easter is coming up, I gave some great Easter Ideas courtesy of Disney. I hope you enjoy doing one of these with your kids- whether at home or in the classroom! Also, April is Autism Awareness Month! Check out these ideas for ways to Celebrate Autism Awareness Month and check out the article on newly discovered information on Autism at the end of this newsletter.

NOTE: Control Click on areas you are interested in below to go to the web pages and explore more on your own!

Easter- Discover boundless Easter ideas for kids, and the whole family. With Easter games, crafts, recipes and egg decoration, we offer all the makings for an egg-cellent holiday celebration.



Easter Egg Decorating

- Perry the Platypus
- Pluto Easter Egg
- Dye-ving Dudes
- Egg Decorating Gallery

[See All Easter Egg Decorating Ideas](#)



Easter Baskets

- Traditional Basket
- Upcycled Ice Cream Bucket
- Magazine Mini Basket
- Bunny Bucket

[See More Easter Basket Crafts](#)



Easter Recipes

- Easter Bunny Cupcakes
- Easter Appetizer Ideas
- Traditional Easter Dinner Recipes
- Cakes & Desserts

[See All Easter Recipes](#)



Easter Games

- Easter Morning Yarn Maze
- Easter Egg Treasure Hunt
- Egg Scramble

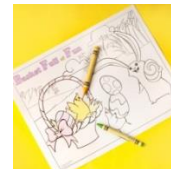
[See All Easter Games](#)



Easter Crafts

- Lucky Rabbit Feet
- Easter Mobile
- Easter Baskets

[See All Easter Craft Ideas](#)



Printables

- Easter Basket Coloring Page
- See All Easter Coloring Pages & Activity Sheets
- Easter Egg Holders

[See All Easter Printables](#)



Disney Easter Fun

- Thumper's Easter Basket
- Mickey Mouse Easter Egg
- 7 Disney Rabbits to Celebrate
- Cheshire Cat Easter Egg
- Daisy Duck Easter Candy Box

See All Disney Easter Fun



Easter Egg-stras

- Easter Around the World
- A Colorful History of Easter and Easter Symbols
- Funny Easter Jokes



30 Ways to Celebrate Autism Awareness Month

We love getting **EVERYONE** involved in Autism Awareness Month. We like to take a goal focused approach to our Autism Awareness Month activities by choosing projects that facilitate positive attitudes & discussions.



1. Bake, share, & eat some desserts.
2. Join the webinar **Autism Explosion by Dr. Coplan will be shown on April 4th at 6PM EST**, through ReThink Autism. Don't worry if you cannot do that time, the webinar will be recorded and archived with others.
3. Print and Share **Friendship Fact Autism Awareness Bookmarks** by the Learning Curve
4. Learn & Share information about **Autism Safety – Be AWAARE!**
5. Learn & Share information about **Visual Supports & Autism**
6. Recommend and go to an **Autism Friendly Business**.
7. Read and Share **Assistive Technology Family Resource Guides** (English & Spanish) to facilitate communication opportunities.
8. Attend an **autism awareness event** in your area.
9. Recommend your favorite autism books or check out some new ones. **Autism Books 101** has a great list that is divided according to different categories.
10. Develop & Use a **personal participation story (modified social story)** to let alert someone that this will be a month filled with a lot of autism information in the news and a lot of autism activities to attend.
11. Print out and laminate more **Autism Awareness bookmarks**.
12. Shop and fundraise with **beautiful autism awareness glass jewelry**.
13. **Shop for autism**. Be a walking billboard of acceptance, tolerance, and awareness.

14. **Create some visual supports** for a student, teacher, or family who needs them. Then wrap them up as a present and say **“Happy Autism Awareness Month”**
15. **Shop for Autism Magnets.**
16. Read or recommend another book about autism. Try the **Autism Society of North Carolina’s Bookstore for ideas.**
17. Go to a Bakery that is celebrating autism awareness month. **Panera Bread teamed up with the Dan Marino Foundation to make DELICIOUS cookies.**
18. Listen and share a great on-line module. **Autism Internet Modules are excellent and free.**
19. Read a new autism blog. **Check out this extensive blog list, from autism hub, for ideas.**
20. Learn and share information about Established and Emerging autism interventions- **National Standards Project** - The reports are FREE in PDF form (just register or click on report PDF)
21. Check out and share this fantastic **APP LIST** by Heather J Bridman & Nick Weiland (January 2012) from the Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence.
22. Support a business for people with autism or other developmental disabilities. One that promotes autism and micro enterprising is **Artists with Autism.**
23. Learn about fantastic people with autism. Here is an example: **Haley Moss** is an accomplished artist and author. She has written a GREAT book, Middle School: The Stuff Nobody tells You about.
24. Have a **‘APP’y Hour sharing some of your favorite apps.** It is always fun to play with ‘apps’ and it could become a fundraiser activity or just a ‘fun’ get together.
25. Learn & Teach more about **AAC and Autism.** We want EVERYONE who needs AAC systems to have them (and remember we ALL use some forms of visual supports).
26. Explore and Share websites about **Autism and Inclusion.** Also, check out Disability is Natural for thoughts on inclusion.
27. Set up a **circle of friends** for someone with autism. **Enjoy this friend song by the White Stripes**
28. Plan a **trip for success.**
29. Stay current! Subscribe to **PrAACtical AAC**, our communication website. PrAACtical AAC will help communication & speech and language skills for people with autism. EVERYONE should have access and support for communication strategies.
30. **Have Fun! Watch a great video. Learn about the Oxygen Mask Project. Go Surfing, do whatever makes you happy.**

Patches of Cortical Layers Disrupted During Early Brain Development in Autism

Researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and the Allen Institute for Brain Science have published a study that gives clear and direct new evidence that autism begins during pregnancy. Click on the link below to read more information:

<http://health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2014-03-26-cortical-layer-disruption-and-autism.aspx>