



IDEAS FOR RAISING AUTISM AWARENESS

Here are some suggested activities you can do to raise awareness and acceptance of Autism Spectrum Disorder:

- Donate a children's book about autism to your local or school library; we can help you with suggestions
- Write an article about National Autism Awareness month or how autism has impacted your life; share it with your PTA or faith community newsletter or your community newspaper.
- Send your school board representative, delegate, and senator information about National Autism Awareness Month and how autism affects your life.
- Create a bulletin board at your school, faith community, or place of work to raise awareness about autism. Themes could include the warning signs of autism, the strengths of people with autism or famous people with autism.
- Form a team for the 5K Run/Walk for Autism (May 26) and invite friends and neighbors to join you! Visit <http://www.ascv.org/ascv-5k/> to register.
- Download 2 resources from the National Autism Society website to share with typical peers
 - ***Growing Up Together*** (For School-Aged Peers) This 4-page, large-type booklet is targeted to elementary-aged school children. It uses simple language to talk about what autism is and how to become friends with someone on the autism spectrum.
http://www.autism-society.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/growing_together.pdf
 - ***Growing Up Together Teens with Autism*** (For Middle School-Aged Peers) This 4-page, booklet is written for teenagers. It uses basic language to talk about what autism is and how to be friends with someone on the autism spectrum
<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/IRCA/Growingupteen.pdf>
- Host a movie night for friends, family, church members, youth groups or kids to watch a story about autism; great choices might be:
 - ***Temple Grandin***
 - ***Autism Is a World***
 - ***Autism, the Musical***
 - ***Mozart and the Whale***
- Come up with a "FACT A DAY" about autism and share with your child's school to be a part of the daily announcements during NAAM.
- Consider having your business or school do "dress down days" or "hat days" where participants make a donation and can then dress down or wear a hat to raise donations and awareness for autism.
- Make autism puzzle piece cookies or cupcakes; take into your school or local first responders; include a little printed information on autism.
- Change your FB profile picture to the autism awareness ribbon for NAAM.

Put on the Puzzle!

The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. Wear and/or display the autism ribbon this April. Don't have a ribbon? Contact us, info@ascv.org for info on where to purchase one online.