



# Along the Spectrum

## Tazewell Mason Counties Special Education Association

April is Autism Awareness month. Hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world, **light blue** in recognition of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to **increase understanding and acceptance** and foster worldwide support. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. More than 3.5 million Americans currently live with ASD, and 1 in 68 children are born with a variation of it, so it's likely you know, whether or not you're aware of it, someone on the autism spectrum.

### Actions That Show Support

**Participate in a walk.** There are hundreds of Autism walks around the country throughout the year. If you can participate in one during the month of April, great! If not, walking any time during the year for registered events is a great way to spread support and awareness.

**Spend time with someone with autism.** The best way to begin to understand autism is to interact with someone who is affected by it. Giving someone you know with autism support and consideration is a great way to celebrate the month and spread awareness and advocacy.

**Be an advocate.** Talk to your local school board. Write a letter or go to a meeting. Show your support for inclusion and for autism spectrum disorders in your local schools.

No matter whether you choose to raise awareness and show your support through social media, donations, events or advocacy, the important thing is that the support is there. Although Autism Awareness Month is a great time to show this, the disorder does not only exist during April, so it's essential to advocate for children, and adults, with autism year-round.

### Did you know?

Females with ASD are often misdiagnosed or "missed diagnosed". In honor of Autism Awareness month, Dr. Lori Ernspenger, created a short video to discuss the gender disparity for females with ASD. Click below to watch the video and learn more.



**AUTISM  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**

Do you know anyone interested in attending the four day Summer Autism Experiential Training June 4-7? We still have room for a few more participants, please email Amber at [aealey@tmcsea.org](mailto:aealey@tmcsea.org)

