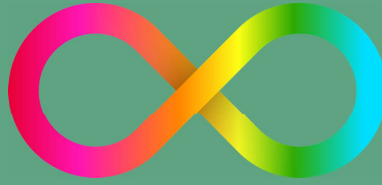




# April is Autism Awareness Month



April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. This day invites us to reflect on how can we create environments where differences are understood, respected, and valued on a daily basis.



## *Promoting Understanding*

Autism is a neurological difference. Each autistic learner has unique strengths, challenges, interests, and their own way of communicating and learning. Understanding these differences helps learners develop openness and respect.



## *Developing Empathy*

In the classroom, empathy is built by exploring different perspectives, discussing emotions and experiences, valuing everyone's interests and ways of being, and modeling respectful language.

## *Promoting Inclusion*

Small gestures make a big difference:

- offer cooperative activities
- provide choices and visual aids
- take sensory needs into account
- allow different ways of participating and communicating.



## *Keep in mind...*

- A learner's diagnosis is confidential.
- Discuss with the learner and their family before any awareness activities occur.
- Awareness can focus on human diversity without identifying the learner.



# Adapt Autism Awareness Activities to Learner Level

Early  
Childhood &  
Kindergarten

- Celebrate similarities and differences
- Encourage kindness and mutual support

1st to 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grade

- Introduce autism through a story or video
- Emphasize that everyone has strengths and challenges
- Discuss how to be a good friend

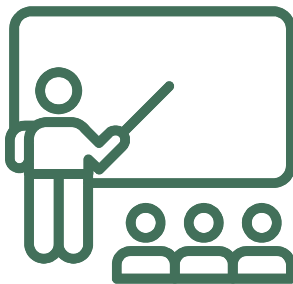
4th to 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade

- Explore inclusion and diversity in human experiences
- Consider concrete actions to welcome others

High  
School

- Deepen understanding of neurodiversity
- Discuss the role of learners in an inclusive community

## Resources



- [Organization for Autism Research \(OAR\)](#) : Free resources to help support autistic students in the classroom and foster a positive classroom culture of acceptance.
- [AIDE Canada](#) : Canada's largest resource hub for content about autism and neurodiversity.



Acceptance is built every day, through simple gestures that allow each learner to be fully themselves..

