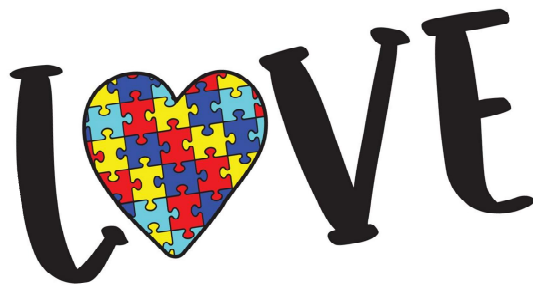


K-PREP NEWS

April 2025



**April is National Autism
Acceptance Month!**

**Help us celebrate World Autism
Awareness Day on Wednesday,
April 2nd by wearing blue!**

**Summer is coming!
Temporary Change of
Schedule and Graduate
Student Withdrawal
forms available now on
the shelves inside the
door. For more info, see
Ms. Sam! Thanks!**

April FUN DAYS

**Wed, April 2nd – Wear BLUE
Wed, April 16th – PJ Day
Mon, April 28th – Pay It Forward –
Do something nice for someone**



Earth Day Celebration

**We welcome families of our
PS/PK classrooms to attend our
Earth Day Celebration on
Tuesday, April 22nd from 9:30-
10:30am! Look for more
information soon!**



Edible Classroom

**We're excited to welcome back
the wonderful staff from the
Edible Classroom! We look
forward to another wonderful
season of garden education
and fresh produce! Lessons
begin on Thursday, April 3rd.**

Autism in Young Children

“If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.”

Autism Facts –

- Autism affects an estimated **1 in 36 children.**
- Boys are nearly 4x more likely to be diagnosed than girls.
- Autism can be reliably diagnosed by age 2, but the average diagnosis comes around age 5.
- **Early Intervention and therapies can make a big difference in a person’s skills and outcomes later in life.**
- You don’t need to wait for a diagnosis for your child to receive services.

“Not *all* autistic children will have *all* these behaviors, but most will have several of the behaviors listed below. That’s why professional evaluation is crucial.”

Signs of Autism at Any Age –

- Loss of previously acquired speech, babbling or social skills
- Avoidance of eye contact
- Persistent preference for solitude
- Difficulty understanding other people’s feelings
- Delayed language development
- Persistent repetition of words or phrases (echolalia)
- Resistance to minor changes in routine or surroundings
- Restricted interests
- Repetitive behaviors (flapping, rocking, spinning, etc.)
- Unusual and intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights and/or colors



Autism in Young Children

Have concerns
for your child's
development?



1. Learn the signs.

2. Take the M-CHAT-R screening –

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/screen-your-child>

3. Schedule with your child's pediatrician.

What to do after the diagnosis?

1. Autism Speaks offers free resources, such as
 - a. 100 Day Kit
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/100-day-kit-young-children>
 - b. A Parent's Guide to Autism
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/parents-guide-autism>
 - c. Local support and events
2. Early Intervention
 - a. Birth – 3yrs
 - b. 3yrs – 5yrs
3. Private Therapy
 - a. Applied Behavioral Analysis
 - b. Speech
 - c. Occupational
 - d. Physical
 - e. Behavioral Health

Local Resources –

- Lancaster County Early Intervention (Birth-3yrs) – 717-399-7323 –
<https://www.lancastercountybhds.org/g/35/Early-Intervention>
- Lancaster/Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 (3-5yrs) – 717-606-1601 –
www.iu13.org
- Find your local Autism Speaks Organization -
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-speaks-locations>
- Center for Autism & Developmental Disabilities (CADD) – 717-735-1920 -
<https://www.wellspan.org/locations/center-for-autism-developmental-disabilities-cadd-loc0000169658>
- Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) -
<https://www.pakeys.org/iecmh/>