

## TAKE A PEEK INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Autism Awareness Day
- Neurodiversity
- Book and Video Recommendations

### **The Infinity Symbol?**

The Autistic community has moved to using the infinity symbol to better reflect the spectrum and diversity of each autistic person. It moves away from the thinking that autism is puzzling or that autistics have a missing piece.



## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

**World Autism  
Acceptance Day  
April 2, 2022**

**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 15TH ANNUAL WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY! THE PURPOSE OF WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IS TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE WITH AUTISM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THOSE WITH AUTISM SO THEY CAN LEAD FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIVES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOCIETY**

**THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH, THE GOAL IS TO FOCUS ON SHARING STORIES AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND ALL FORMS OF NEURODIVERISTY, FOSTERING WORLDWIDE SUPPORT.**

**ON WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY, WE CELEBRATE THE COUNTLESS WAYS THAT PEOPLE WITH AUTISM CONTRIBUTE TO OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR NATION, AND THE WORLD, AND WE SHINE A LIGHT ON THE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS PEOPLE WITH AUTISM FACE IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.**

## UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERSITY

- Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits.
- 30-40% of the population is thought to be neurodiverse.
- This typically includes people with diagnosed neurological disorders and learning disabilities like ADHD, Autism, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, and Tourette's syndrome

**More and more famous and successful people are sharing that they are neurodiverse. This openness helps us all understand that it can be more varied than it once seemed. Here are a just few to highlight how neurodiversity isn't a barrier to accomplishing great things. Here are a few examples....**



Elon Musk- CEO of  
SpaceX and Tesla



Satoshi Tajiri  
Pokemon creator



Simone Biles- World Champion  
Gymnast/Olympian

## Things You Can Say to Help Your Child Understand:

- Neurodiversity happens in the brain. This just means their brain is a little different than yours. That's why they might react or understand things differently.
- Sometimes their senses - sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell - might work differently. For example, someone who is neurodiverse might have a hard time focusing in class if the room gets too loud.
- It affects each person differently. Some kids might talk with you but not look at you, while others might not talk much and others will talk a lot. Just like any kid, no two kids are the same. So try to get to know the people around you so you can better understand how to be their friend.
- You might not know that your friend is neurodiverse - so remember to try to have empathy when someone is acting in a way that is different than you
- Sometimes this means others will play differently, so you can gently try to help them learn new ways to play or maybe join theirs! Remember you can always ask anyone to play! Ask a teacher or an adult for ideas that can work for everyone.





Click on the images to  
watch videos about  
Neurodiversity and  
Inclusivity

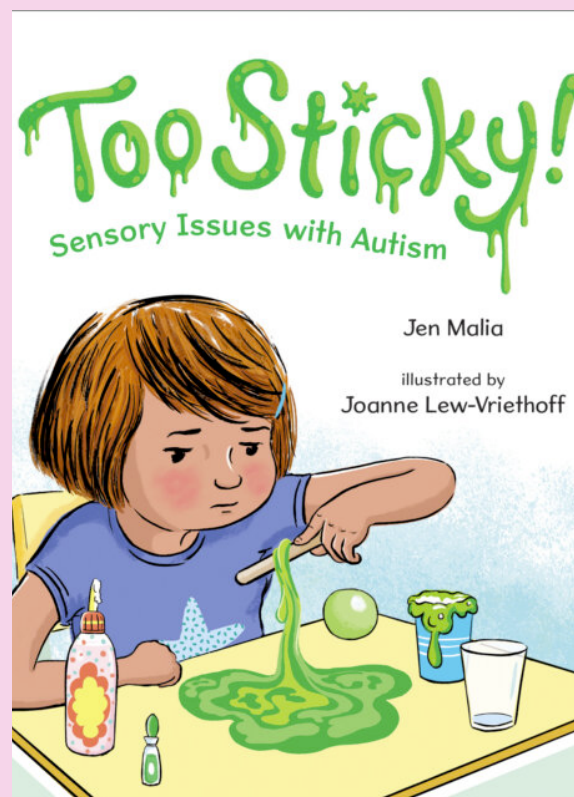


## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

"Just Ask" by Sonia Sotomayor

"Too Sticky! Sensory Issues with  
Autism  
Written" by: Jen Malia

Click on the image to the for each read aloud.



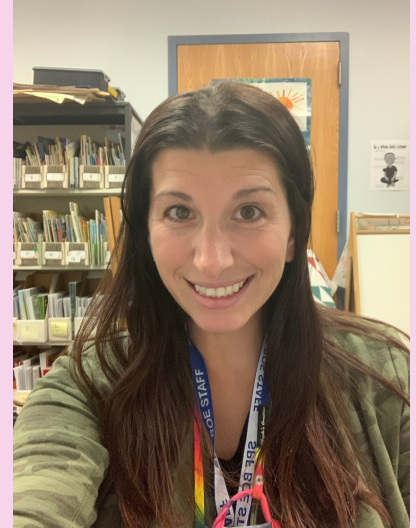
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