

Autism Awareness & Acceptance bulletin boards

Below are some phrases and facts that you could use on a bulletin board or posters for Autism Awareness Month. To illustrate the concept that we should all create more accepting communities, we recommend using images that relate to friendship: happy children playing together, clasped hands, hearts, smiley-face icons, etc.

Elementary

Awareness:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability. This means the brains of kids with autism grow differently.
- Autism is not a disease. You cannot “catch” autism.
- Kids with autism often have trouble understanding others’ faces.
- A person with autism might have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound
- Up to 1 in 36 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder in North Carolina.

Acceptance:

- You can learn a lot of cool stuff from a friend with autism, just as they can learn from you.
- Kids with autism are a lot like you, their brains just work differently.
- Kids with autism like making friends, but they might need you to take the first step!
- Bullying is not cool!
- Take a stand against bullies.

Middle

Awareness:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong developmental disability.
- Autism is not a disease. You cannot “catch” autism.
- 1 in 36 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder in North Carolina.
- A person with ASD might:
 - talk about or show interest in a restricted range of topics
 - have trouble relating to others
 - have trouble understanding other people’s feelings
 - repeat actions over and over again
 - have trouble adapting when a routine changes
 - have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound

Acceptance:

- You can learn a lot from a friend with autism, just as they can learn from you.
- Kids with autism are a lot like you, their brains just work differently.
- Kids with autism like making friends, but they might need you to take the first step!
- Bullying is not cool!
- Take a stand against bullies.
- Look beyond your peers' disability to their abilities!

High School

Awareness:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong developmental disability. 1 in 36 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder in North Carolina.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. Autism is a brain disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior.
- 1 in 3 young adults with autism has no paid job experience, college education, or technical schooling nearly seven years after high school graduation.
- A person with ASD might:
 - talk about or show interest in a restricted range of topics
 - have trouble relating to others
 - have trouble understanding other people's feelings
 - repeat actions over and over again
 - have trouble adapting when a routine changes
 - have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound

Acceptance:

- Join the Autism Society of North Carolina's awareness campaign this April! "Awareness is the first step. Acceptance is the goal."
- Individuals with autism possess unique skills and can contribute to their communities.
- Start or join a peer tutoring or buddy program.
- Include peers with autism in your social circles. Take the initiative!
- Take a stand against bullying.
- Contact the Autism Society of North Carolina to help: www.autismsociety-nc.org.