

GATEWAY PEDIATRIC THERAPY

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

March is Reading Month!

To celebrate reading month in March, we're highlighting authors on the spectrum who have written amazing memoirs, autobiographies, and educational books on autism. John Elder Robinson wrote *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's*, which brings the reader into his world with a unique story that's also relatable. *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a 13 Year-Old Boy with Autism* was written by Naoki Higashida, to demonstrate how an autistic mind thinks and feels. Temple Grandin offers her own experience as an autistic person in *The Autistic Brain* where she emphasizes that raising and educating children on the autism spectrum isn't about focusing on their weakness, it's more so about fostering their unique contributions. Last but not least, *It's Raining Cats and Dogs* by Michael Barton illustrates why people on the spectrum have problems understanding common phrases and idioms that others instantly understand in the everyday English language. This book contains quirky and memorable drawings that will capture the attention of those on the spectrum, giving them the confidence and knowledge to recognize, and maybe even use, figures of speech and idioms.



Answering your Child's Questions about their Classmate with Autism

With 1 out of 44 children being diagnosed with an autism disorder, it's likely that your child will share classrooms, sport teams, and other activities with a child on the spectrum. Being able to value differences and increase acceptance of all forms of autism is a crucial step to build understanding and answer your child's questions about their peers with autism. Explaining the concept of autism can be challenging, but you can start by telling your child that having a spectrum disorder can have many different symptoms, interactions and behaviors. Children on the spectrum may have different play preferences and may not know how to interact with others. Suggest to your child to find and offer a toy that is highly preferred to their classmate with autism. Every day looks different for a child with gaps in social skills and learning, so if offering a preferred toy to their classmate does not work, encourage your child to try again another day. Through kindness and patience, your child can help their new friend build social skills and learn routines, which can be difficult for children on the spectrum to learn independently. Taking the time to learn about autism with your child benefits everyone. Your child will gain a valuable skill of being accepting of others. They will know what autism looks like and how to interact with understanding and compassion in the real world.



Upcoming Events

4/1

3:00PM - 4:15PM
Magical Journey- Sing-a-long
Performance
44575 Garfield Rd, Clinton Twp

4/8

11AM - 12:30PM
Scooby Doo- Giant Screen
Henry Ford Museum
20900 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn

4/2

10AM - 12PM
Sensory-Friendly Days at the
Outdoor Adventure Center
1801 Atwater Street, Detroit

4/8

11AM - 11:45AM
Sensory-Friendly Planetarium Show
1221 E Kearsley St, Flint

4/2

1PM-4PM
Autism Friendly Easter Egg Hunt
Play-Place Special Needs Center
39337 Mound Rd, Sterling Heights

4/25

10AM - 3PM
Spartan Concert-Sensory Friendly
542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing

L	F	L	O	W	E	R	B
A	N	U	N	M	S	W	X
M	E	W	A	D	M	S	Q
B	T	Z	E	Q	C	P	Q
X	B	U	D	E	Q	R	R
Q	Z	U	B	G	Y	I	A
Z	A	C	L	G	Z	N	I
B	I	R	D	Q	J	G	N

Word Search

BIRD	LAMB
FLOWER	NET
EGG	BUD
RAIN	SPRING