Autism Facts for April 22-26

- There is no blood test, scan, or images that can be used to determine if a child has autism. Doctors and other professionals utilize checklists and behavioral observations to determine a diagnosis.
- Although we are making progress through research, there is still no known one cause for autism. Scientists have proven there are genetic markers for those with autism which change the manner in which the brain is structured.
- Research has shown that early intervention is a key component increase positive outcomes.
- Individuals may display a few or all of the behaviors listed above. It is important to remember that each individual with autism is unique!

Some behaviors associated with Autism can include:

- Delayed learning of language
- Difficulty making eye contact or holding a conversation
- Difficulty with executive functioning (reasoning/planning)
- Narrow and intense areas of interests
- Poor motor skills
- Sensory sensitivities (think of the five senses - they can be over/under stimulated)
- Repetitive ritualistic behaviors