Autism Facts - April 8-12, 2019

- According to Autism Speaks & CDC, 1 in every 59 American children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (2018).
- 1:37 boys diagnosed and 1:151 girls are diagnosed
- Research shows that in North Carolina this number is higher, with 1 in every 55 effected.
- Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.
- Autism varies from person to person and therefore no two individuals are alike.
- Over the next decade, an estimated 500,000 teens (50,000 each year) will enter adulthood and age out of school-based autism services.
- Nearly half of 25-year-olds with autism have never held a paying job.
April 22\textsuperscript{nd}-26th

- There is no blood test, scan, or images 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 5 sense, they can be over/under stimulated)
- Repetitive ritualistic behaviors

The puzzle pattern reflects the mystery and complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with the condition. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope—hope that through increased awareness of autism, and through early intervention and appropriate treatments, people with autism will lead fuller, more complete lives.

April 29th-may 3rd

What is World Autism Awareness Day and Light It Up Blue?

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), observed on April 2, was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health priority. Every year on World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Speaks celebrates its international “Light It Up Blue” campaign. Thousands of iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses and homes across the globe unite by shining bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families affected by autism. Individuals everywhere wear blue in honor of our community.