

WHY ACCEPTANCE?

- **What is autism acceptance?**

Autism acceptance means embracing and valuing autistic people *as autistic people* instead of being afraid of us, having low expectations, or trying to find a way to make us not autistic.

- **Why should I accept autistic people?**

The Americans With Disabilities Act of says "disability is a natural part of the human experience." Autism is a natural part of the human experience, and autistic people are members of our community, citizens, friends, family members, and fellow humans. Accepting autistic people is about honoring human diversity and making sure that everyone and is included, valued, and contributing in our society.

- **Why should I care about autism acceptance?**

1 in 88 people are autistic. You probably know an autistic person. Autism acceptance means you want us around.

- **What does acceptance look like?**

Autism acceptance looks different to different people in different contexts. At its heart, autism acceptance is about accepting autistic people, instead of being afraid of us, having low

expectations, or trying to find a way to make us not autistic. That might look like

- inclusive education
- helping your child or your friend learn to use their AAC device
- fighting stigma and stereotypes about autism and autistic people
- hiring an autistic person to work for you at the same wage as a comparable non-autistic person
- snapping your fingers instead of clapping for applause so your autistic coworker isn't hurt by the noise
- or making sure autistic people are included and respected in your community and that your community is accessible to us.

Acceptance is not passive tolerance.

Acceptance is an action.

- **Doesn't acceptance mean no therapies, no education, no intervention, just letting my kid stay where they are forever? Isn't acceptance passive?**

No! Acceptance is not passive. Acceptance is an action. Acceptance means doing everything you can so that your autistic child will grow up into the best autistic adult they can be, supporting your autistic friends in a world that is not designed for us, and working to make our world a better, more inclusive, safer place for autistic people of all ages and abilities.



April is Autism Acceptance Month.

Acceptance is an action.