

In an effort to help promote Autism Awareness Month in April. Here are a few suggestions on ways you can help educate those in your community:

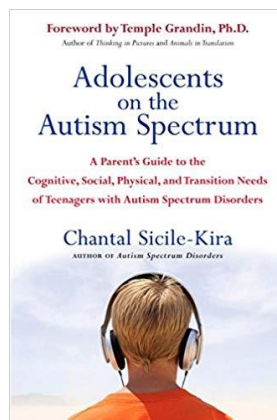
- Contact a school, library or place of business and ask if you could help them set up and autism awareness display.
- Wear an autism awareness ribbon, shirt, or other apparel.
- Learn about autism spectrum disorder - To spread autism awareness start by learning about the topic. Read about autism from reliable professional sources, and people with first-hand experience on the condition.
- Attend events - Learn about autism and make it your mission to spread the word, and then take it a step further. Get involved. One great way to get more involved in the autism community is by going to events.
- Spend time with people living with autism spectrum disorder - A lot of times people don't know very much about autism but are pleasantly surprised when they meet someone on the spectrum and start to get to know them a little better. No matter how much you read and study, you're never entirely going to understand autism unless you interact with people who live it.

Family Community Resource Room



We would like to invite you to make an appointment and check out our Family Community Resource Room.

Our lending library is compiled with autism spectrum disorder resources including an array of books, learning aides, and DVD's available for check out.



We are participating in

We have **Mystery Pucks** available for sale from our Autism Awareness Night with the Rockford IceHogs. Pucks are signed by Rockford IceHogs Players or Chicago Blackhawk Players.

Money raised from the pucks will support awareness activities: The cost of the pucks are:

1 puck for \$15 or 2 pucks for \$25.



Call 815.395.5566 or
email tap.rockford@eastersealschicago.org for details.



WHY DOES THE AUTISM PROGRAM OF ILLINOIS LIGHT IT UP PURPLE??

As the state designated provider of autism services, we light it up purple to highlight our efforts to help those with autism.

WE LIGHT IT UP PURPLE IN ILLINOIS FOR: AUTISM AWARENESS

- 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with autism. The need for diagnostics, services, and resources is on a steady rise.
- TAP promotes and advocates for an inclusive environment for all.

PROGRAM AWARENESS

- TAP is the nation's largest network of autism service providers.
- TAP provides evidence-based, medically necessary autism therapy to children throughout Illinois.
- Through partnerships with key universities in Illinois, TAP provides training to autism related fields in order to increase the number of credentialed providers in the state of Illinois.
- TAP provides autism training workshops to professionals, community members, and families throughout the state of Illinois.


FUNDING AWARENESS

- TAP is a state funded program that provides VITAL direct care for autism services and resources to families and professionals in Illinois.
- TAP funding provides help to children who have NO other access to autism services.
- It is imperative to shine a light on the importance of our services and funding! Help us show government officials and our community HOW IMPORTANT THIS FUNDING IS TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS by lighting it up purple!


IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIGHT IT UP PURPLE ALONGSIDE US, PLEASE VISIT THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE PURPLE LIGHT BULB!


<http://www.tap-illinois.org/light-it-up-purple/>


Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Facts


 In 2018 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC determined that approximately 1 in 59 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).


- 1 in 37 boys
- 1 in 151 girls

 Most children were still being diagnosed after age 4, though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as age 2.

 31% of children with ASD have an intellectual, 25% are in the borderline range), and 44% have IQ scores in the average to above average range

 Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

 Minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often.

 Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan.

More Facts about ASD



Prevalence of autism in U.S. children increased by 119.4 percent from 2000 (1 in 150) to 2010 (1 in 68). ([CDC, 2014](#)) Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability. ([CDC, 2008](#))



Autism services cost U.S. citizens \$236-262 billion annually. ([Buescher et al., 2014](#))



A majority of costs in the U.S. are in adult services – \$175-196 billion, compared to \$61-66 billion for children. ([Buescher et al., 2014](#))







Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention. (Autism. 2007 Sep;11(5):453-63)



The U.S. cost of autism over the lifespan is about \$2.4 million for a person with an intellectual disability, or \$1.4 million for a person without intellectual disability. ([Buescher et al., 2014](#))



ASD Facts Continued...

-  35 percent of young adults (ages 19-23) with autism have not had a job or received postgraduate education after leaving high school. ([Shattuck et al., 2012](#))
-  It costs more than \$8,600 extra per year to educate a student with autism. ([Lavelle et al., 2014](#)) (The average cost of educating a student is about \$12,000 – [NCES, 2014](#))
-  In June 2014, only 19.3 percent of people with disabilities in the U.S. were participating in the labor force – working or seeking work. Of those, 12.9 percent were unemployed, meaning only 16.8 percent of the population with disabilities was employed. (By contrast, 69.3 percent of people without disabilities were in the labor force, and 65 percent of the population without disabilities was employed.) ([Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014](#))
-  Two thirds of children who have autism between the ages of 6 and 15 are bullied.

