

Autism Awareness Month

is celebrated nationally every year in April

- You can be part of the celebration -

This month, take the time to learn a little bit about Autism.

Autism is a disorder that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors. There is usually nothing about how a person with autism looks that sets them apart from other people, but they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most people.

There are early signs that can help you recognize autism:

- Lack of or delay in spoken language
- Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms, such as hand-flapping or twirling objects
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

There is no known single cause for autism, but increased awareness can help families know what to look for and how to get help. The earlier a child is diagnosed, the earlier the child can begin benefiting from one of the many specialized intervention approaches to treatment and education.

Spread the message... Ohio has a guide to help parents understand autism and how to find services and supports. Ohio's Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders was created by parents for parents, and is published by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Visit their website to learn more at www.ocali.org. This month...share this resource with someone you know... and they can share it with someone they know... and then you too can be part of building autism awareness in Ohio.

For additional information on Ohio's efforts visit <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/topics/iagautism.htm>

**OHIO'S
PARENT GUIDE
TO
AUTISM
SPECTRUM
DISORDERS**



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**Ohio Center for Autism
and Low Incidence**

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