



April is Autism Acceptance Month! At Space Coast Early Steps, we're committed to supporting every child's unique journey, and this month offers us an incredible opportunity to amplify acceptance, awareness, and appreciation for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Why Autism Acceptance Matters

Autism Acceptance Month is more than just raising awareness; it's about embracing diversity, advocating for inclusion, and celebrating the strengths and talents of individuals with autism. By shifting the focus from mere awareness to acceptance, we strive to create a world where everyone feels valued, understood, and included.

Facts About Autism

- About 1 in 36 children in the US are identified with autism
- Autism is nearly 4 times more common among boys than among girls
- Autism is characterized by differences in social interaction, communication, and responding to sensory experiences.

Ways to Get Involved

Throughout April, there are countless ways to participate and show your support for Autism Acceptance Month:

- Get SOAKed for Autism 2024 <https://www.soakautism.com/>
 - A free fun day for the whole family on Saturday, April 6th, from 11-2pm at Fred Poppe Regional Park, Palm Bay
- UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) has a variety of classes and activities. <https://ucf-card.org/calendar/>
- Autism Workshop – The Five Point Scale on Wednesday, 17th April at Suntree Business Center, 9am – 10:30am
- ABG Helping Hands Family Festival, Harley Davidson, Palm Bay, Saturday, April 27th, 11am – 4pm
- <https://www.belikebuddy.com/florida> Autism Friendly Activities in Florida

Let's Celebrate Together!

This Autism Acceptance Month, let's come together as a community to celebrate diversity, promote acceptance, and build a more inclusive world for all. We invite you to join us in spreading love, understanding, and support throughout the month of April and beyond.

Becca Fire, BCBA
Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist

WATER PLAY
MAY – SEPTEMBER

**COMMUNITY
PLAY DATE**

Under 5's

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

From 9:00am – 10:30am

The Children's Center

5650 S. Washington Ave.,

Titusville 32780

RSVP to Mary: 321-292-1370

SPACES ARE LIMITED!



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AUTISM SCREENING

In partnership with
The Scott Center for Autism Treatment
For Early Steps Families
Up to Age 4

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024
Space Coast Early Steps
3000 N. Wickham Road,
Melbourne, FL 32935

SPACES ARE LIMITED
To RSVP please call or text
Mary Cancel at (321) 292-1370



FLORIDA TECH
The Scott Center
for Autism Treatment





EARLY STEPS PLAY GROUPS

**Families with developmental delays and disabilities, ages 0 - 3
are welcome to join us for therapy related play activities
JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2024**

**Palm Bay Play Group - Every 3rd Friday of each month
9:30am - 10:30am
Palm Bay Library, 1520 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905**

**Satellite Beach Play Group - Every 3rd Friday of each month
9:30am - 10:30am
751 Jamaica Blvd., Satellite Beach, FL 32937**

**Melbourne Play Group - Every 1st Tuesday of each month
9am - 10am
Eau Gallie Public Library, 1521 Pineapple Avenue Melbourne, FL 32935**

**Cocoa Play Group - Every 1st Wednesday of each month
10am - 11am
Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, 308 Forrest Ave, Cocoa, FL, 32922**

**Titusville Play Group - Every 2nd Friday of each month
9am - 10am
The Children's Center, 5650 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32780**

TEXT 321-292-1370 (or call) to RSVP



<https://fun4spacecoastkids.com/>

Check out this site for lots of events,
groups, activities, clubs and more!

LIKE & SHARE EACH MOMENT TOGETHER!

**THE
26TH ANNUAL
#FAMILY
CAFE 2024**

FEATURING THE
GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT
ON DISABILITIES

**HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO
JUNE 14-16, 2024**

THE FAMILY CAFE IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (RESE)





Get Soaked
For AUTISM

April
6th
11-2

FREE
Water
DAY




Fred Poppe Regional
Park
Palm Bay, Florida



**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**



**a special
day
for
special
families**

water slides,
bounce houses,
carnival snacks,
water activities,
character pictures,
dunk tank

www.soakautism.com



Parent to Parent Connects (P2PC)
Presents



Coffee and Chat Session

(For Special Needs Community)

May 14th | 6-7pm

Join us for a bold shot of rich,
resourceful discussions with
caregivers just like you!



Register online today
at **P2PC-INC.COM**



Cocoa Beach Library | 550 N. Brevard Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PROMISE WALK FOR PRE-ECLAMPSIA

Saturday May 18, 8:00 am
Riverfront Park of Cocoa Village
401 Riveredge Blvd
7:30 am - Registration opens
8:00 am - Program begins
8:15 am - Walk begins

[2024 Promise Walk \(qgiv.com\)](http://qgiv.com)

FREE WORKSHOP ONLINE

ALL ABOUT IEP'S

Presented by Emily
DeWoody of the Family
Liason Project

Thursday, April 11th
12:30pm - 1:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83829774665>

Meeting ID: 838 2977 4665



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PRESENTED BY DIETRICH BROWNE
RESOURCE TEACHER FOR THE ASD PROGRAM AT
BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUTISM WORKSHOP

5 Point Scales

A systematic and rational way to describe nebulous gray areas of the social world. Calm or overwhelmed only? How about 1. Calm, 2. Concerned, 3. Worried, 4. Upset or 5. Overwhelmed? 5 Point scales can add clarity for understanding.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

SUNTREE BUSINESS CENTER, BLDG. A

CONFERENCE ROOM 3270, SUNTREE BLVD., MELBOURNE, FL 32940

OPEN TO PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND PROFESSIONALS

Please visit the URL below to register on Eventbrite-

Spaces are limited:

<https://shorturl.at/jCHKX>





1st Sunday Morning of Each Month

9am to 11am

2250 W Coastal Ln, West Melbourne, FL 32904

Chuck E. Cheese's now offers a sensory-friendly experience on the **first Sunday of every month**. Our trained and caring staff is there to make sure families who have children with special needs have a fun filled visit.



BREAKFAST SUPPORT GROUP

Please join us for resources, friendship and support. We will share our journey together!

Food and/or drinks available for purchase.

All ages welcome!

Friday, April 5th

Friday, May 3rd

Cracker Barrell Old Country Store

1175 Palm Bay Rd NE,

Melbourne, FL 32905

9:30am – 11am

Space Coast Early Steps C.A.T.C.H. of Brevard

Community Access to Child Health of Brevard, Inc.
Early Intervention Services for young children with
special developmental needs

For more information or referral contact:

1264 Rockledge Blvd., Suite 104
Rockledge, Florida 32955
Ph: (321) 634-3688 Fax: (321) 504-0955

Funding provided by IDEA and Florida Dept. of Health

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.spacecoastes.org/>



The IDEA Part C Grant Application and 2024 Proposed Policy Changes have been publicly noticed at [Program Policies and Guidance - FDOH Early Steps \(floridaearlysteps.com\)](https://www.floridaearlysteps.com), effective March 20, 2024. Public hearings will be held on Friday, April 19th, at 10:00 AM and Monday, April 22nd, at 2:00 PM, to allow for public participation.

The opportunity for public comment on the proposed policies and the Part C application will be available for 30 days after public hearing, beginning April 19th, 2024, through May 19th, 2024. Comments will be accepted from the public, including parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, providers of services, advocacy groups and organizations, as well as other stakeholders in the state.

Questions about the public hearing can be sent to Andrew.Smith@flhealth.gov, but all public comments must be directed to CMS.EarlyStepsPublicComment@flhealth.gov.

Mary Cancel
Family Resource Specialist/Family Advocate
Space Coast Early Steps
1264 Rockledge Blvd., Suite 103
Rockledge, FL 32955
Mary.Cancel@spacecoastes.org
Cell (text or call): (321) 292-1370

<https://www.facebook.com/Space-Coast-Early-Steps-101089132406421>

