

JOIN US IN HONORING WORLD AUTISM MONTH

“Showing kindness towards those who are different and embracing our imperfections as proof of our humanness is the remedy for fear.” – Emma Zurcher-Long



WORLD AUTISM MONTH

Recognized every April, [World Autism Month \(National Autism Awareness Month\)](#) raises awareness for Autism and Asperger’s syndrome and fosters worldwide support for members of the Autism community.

WHAT IS AUTISM?

According to Autism Speaks, autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. There are many subtypes of autism, most of which are influenced by both environmental and genetic factors. As autism is a spectrum disorder, everyone with autism has a unique set of strengths and challenges.

RESOURCES & ASSETS

- Review the attached [World Autism Month Resource Guide](#) by [Autism Speaks](#), which shares information about autism, ways you can make a difference, and more! Autism Speaks is an organization committed to promoting solutions for individuals with Autism through advocacy, support, and advanced research.
- Watch [this animation](#) to better understand how people with autism perceive the world.
- Learn more about autism by completing **Blue Ocean Brain** trainings such as: [Stories @ Work – Members of the Autism Community](#) & [Understanding Neurodiversity](#).
- Have a movie night at home and watch a film or TV show featuring a character with autism. Some suggestions include:
 - [A Brilliant Young Mind \(2015\)](#)
 - Struggling to build relationships with others, a teenage math prodigy (Asa Butterfield) develops a budding friendship with a young girl (Jo Yang) while competing at the International Mathematics Olympiad.
 - [Temple Grandin \(2010\)](#)
 - A biopic of Temple Grandin, a woman on the spectrum who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry.
 - [The Good Doctor \(2017\)](#)
 - Shaun Murphy, a young surgeon with autism and Savant syndrome, is recruited into the surgical unit of a prestigious hospital.

SPOTLIGHT

In honor of World Autism Month, we are excited to spotlight [Dan Aykroyd](#)! Read more about his story below:

DAN AYKROYD



July 1, 1952 - Present



Dan Aykroyd is an actor, comedian, writer, and producer. He is best known for being a writer and member of the "Not Ready for Prime Time Players" cast on **Saturday Night Live** from 1975 to 1979. He is also well known for playing in and co-writing hit comedies such as **The Blues Brothers** (1980) and **Ghostbusters** (1984). Aykroyd received an Emmy Award in 1977 for his SNL writing and was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2022.

In the 1980s, Aykroyd was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. Aykroyd has publicly spoken about his experience with Asperger's, stating that it led to the idea of Ghostbusters.



We hope you take the time to honor World Autism Month this April.

Thank you,

