

April 2023

## The Connection is You

Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors that affects people in varying degrees. We are very fortunate to have many resources available to us in the KC Metro area. Click on the link below to learn more about ASD and local resources available.

**Autism Society for the Heartland: [www.asaheartland.org](http://www.asaheartland.org)**



### Did you know?

The month of April was identified as Autism Awareness Month to help bring awareness and find a cure for Autism. Since then, people with Autism seek a different perspective of *"acceptance and inclusion rather than a cure . . ."* (USAtoday.com, April 2022).

Many people with autism do not want to be "cured" but "accepted." Learn More

**#CelebrateDifferences**



### SPED Events

- **Special Needs Financial Planning Parent Forum** - April 27 from 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Shawnee Parks & Rec Adaptive Recreation Activities**
- **Best Buddies Friendship Walk 2023** - May 13

**SPED Events Calendar & Registration Details**



### Parent Tips

KU Autism Connections present videos (Connecting Parents, Connecting Kids and Connecting Teens) highlighting social skills, behavior and learning for kids, teens and parents.

**KU Autism Connections**

## Awareness Highlight

### April is Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month

#### Which symbol represents Autism?

Advocates and supporters of Autism have strong feelings about which symbol should be used to represent Autism. ***What do you think?***



The Puzzle Piece was first introduced in 1963 by the National Autistic Society. Learn more about the origin of the puzzle piece >

**The Autism Puzzle Piece Design**



The rainbow-colored infinity symbol was added as a symbol for Autism in 2018. It was created to remove the idea that those with autism are missing parts or are incomplete.



Light it Up Blue or Wear Blue originally represented boys with autism. Many people and businesses recognize Autism during the month of April by Light It Up Blue.