

Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School
Support Team for Educational Partnership (STEP)

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

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What is Autism?

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. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 36 children and 1 in 45 adults in the United States today. We know that there is not one type of autism, but many. Autism looks different for everyone, and each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges.

SEE BEYOND THE SPECTRUM!

I will be a true friend and advocate of the full autistic community.

I will respect and support those with autism and champion acceptance, not just awareness, of differences.

I will clarify misconceptions about autism and guide others to reputable resources to help them on their journey.

I will challenge others to provide meaningful opportunities for autistic individuals and their families.

I will celebrate all wins, big or small, of the autism community.

I will #ActFearlessly and stand alongside the autism community in the pursuit of a better world for those with autism.



Autism Speaks

Ms. Veronsky
**AUTISTIC SUPPORT
TEACHER**
KDG - 2ND GRADE

**I TEACH
AU-SOME
STUDENTS**

Ms. Henderson
**AUTISTIC SUPPORT
TEACHER**
3RD - 5TH GRADE

EDMONDS SUPPORT TEAM FOR EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (STEP) TEAM

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What is autism?



challenges with social skills



challenges with communication



restrictive or repetitive behaviors / interests

Level 1 Autism REQUIRING SUPPORT



- Without supports in place, deficits in social communication cause noticeable impairments



- Difficulty initiating social interactions
- Atypical or unsuccessful response to social overtures of others
- May appear to have decreased interest in social interactions



- Inflexibility of behavior causes significant interference with functioning
- Difficulty switching between activities
- Problems of organization and planning hamper independence

Level 2 Autism REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT



- Deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills
- Social impairments apparent even with supports in place



- Limited initiation of social interactions
- Reduced or abnormal responses to social overtures from others



- Inflexibility of behavior
- Difficulty coping with change
- Restricted/repetitive behaviors appear frequently and interfere with functioning
- Distress and/or difficulty changing focus or action

Level 3 Autism REQUIRING VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT



- Severe deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills



- Very limited initiation of social interactions
- Minimal response to social overtures from others



- Inflexibility of behavior
- Extreme difficulty coping with change
- Restricted/repetitive behaviors markedly interfere with functioning
- Great distress/difficulty changing focus or action

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, NOT TO TREAT OR DIAGNOSE.