

DEVELOPMENTAL  
& BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

# NEWSLETTER

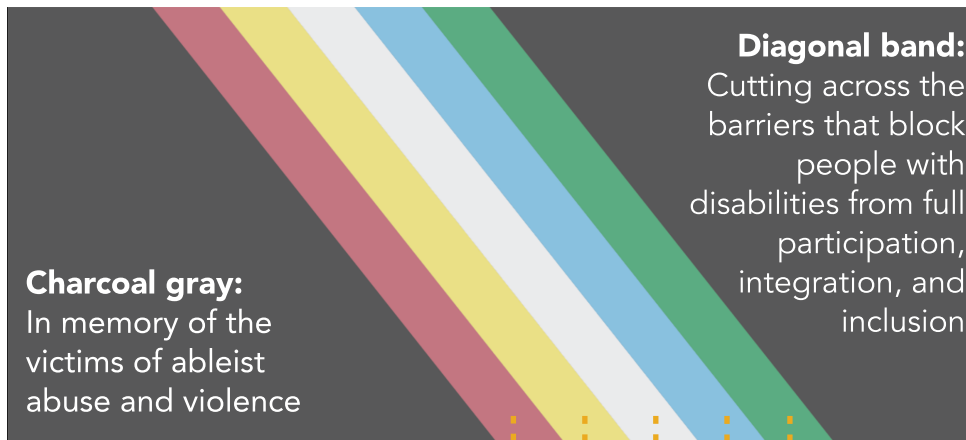


The Autism Program

A monthly newsletter for families of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center

## Celebrating Disability Pride Month!

**On July 26th, 1990**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was written into our law. This was the monumental outcome of fierce & persistent advocacy by disability activists and community members all over America! Since then, every July is celebrated as **Disability Pride Month**, reminding us of the power & necessity of advocacy and thoughtful inclusion.



## Disability Pride Flag: What Does It Mean?

**Charcoal gray:**  
In memory of the victims of ableist abuse and violence

**Diagonal band:**  
Cutting across the barriers that block people with disabilities from full participation, integration, and inclusion

**Red stripe:** Physical disabilities (chronic pain, mobility impairment, loss of limbs, etc.)

**Yellow stripe:** Neurodivergent folks (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, etc.)

**White stripe:** Those with undiagnosed & invisible disabilities

**Blue stripe:** Individuals with psychiatric disabilities (depression, PTSD, anxiety, etc.)

**Green stripe:** Individuals with sensory disabilities (hearing loss, visual impairments, etc.)

This flag was created in 2019 by artist Ann Magill.

### Learn More & Celebrate Together

- Why and How to Celebrate Disability Pride Month
- Films & Stories to Watch During Disability Pride Month: Collection of media about the disability rights movement
- Recognizing Personal Bias & Ableism



# Upcoming Events

## 7/13 Quiet Reading Party

**2:30 - 3:20pm** By BPL Central

If you struggle to focus on reading due to a neurodevelopmental condition, try the library's weekly Quiet Reading Party! Snacks, fidget toys, and other helpful tools for neurodiverse adults will be provided.

**Register for this event [here!](#)**

## 7/22 Neurospicy Reads

**6 - 7pm** By BPL Central

This is a monthly book club for neurodivergent (& curious) adults! Join them this month for a lively discussion of *Sincerely, Your Autistic Child*, a collection of essays by autistic adults.

**Register for this event [here!](#)**

## 7/17 Autism and Dental Care

**6:30 - 7:30pm** By The Lurie Center for Autism

Join Jennifer Magee, DMD, MPH and Jill Plineda, PhD for a virtual conversation on dental health, home care, and strategies for dental visit preparation for individuals with ASD. Q&A will follow at the end of the presentation, so come with your questions!

**Register for this event [here!](#)**

## 7/30 Rainbow Support Group Meeting

**6 - 7pm** By Mass Advocates Standing Strong (MASS)

Rainbow groups are virtual support groups for self-advocates who are members of both the intellectual & developmental disability and the LGBTQ+ community. Join them to find support & learn and talk about various topics!

**Register for this event [here!](#)**



## Looking for More Reading?

We know that reading can be an excellent way to learn more about, well, just about anything and everything! It can help shape the things we know, feel, imagine, and understand. Which is why for Disability Pride Month, we wanted to share these amazing resources that can help you relax, peruse through, and find something that feels just right for you. Happy reading!

### Disabled, Not Unable 2024: 75 Books for Children, Teens & Adults

A fantastic list of books for all ages about the diverse experiences of the disabled community.

### The Autism Books by Autistic Authors Project

A catalogue of all books written about & related to autism by Autistic authors. A great way to find authentic Autistic representation!

### Sex Ed for Autistic Folks

An inclusive and multimedia sex education guide for autistic folks age 15 & up. Created by the Organization for Autism Research.



### Family Support Grant: Kodi Lee Gives Back

Together with Kodi Lee, the Flutie Foundation is providing funding to cover costs for art/music therapies, lessons, and other opportunities for autistic folks over the age of 13! Click [here](#) for more information & to apply.

**Deadline to apply: 7/20.**

## ADA Day

Come and celebrate the 34th anniversary of the signing of the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) with some music, food, and friends!

The City of Boston Disabilities Commission is hosting an annual ADA Day resource fair and all are invited!

- Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>
- 12 to 2pm
- Boston City Hall Plaza

## Resources



The Autism Program is continuing to support families in many ways both inside and outside of Boston Medical Center. Check out our website to learn more about the services, supports and programs we offer including our Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative, Teens Engaged as Mentors (TEAM) program, and our training offerings. We also have a huge resource library where you can access free information on a variety of topics such as safety, behavioral support, transition to adulthood, insurance and more!

<https://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-autism-program>

**Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Email us at.**

**[autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:autismprogram@bmc.org)**

**with suggestions.**

## Clinic

Our clinicians are available for developmental evaluations, assessments and follow up. To connect with the clinical team, please call 617-414-4841 and follow the prompts for Developmental Pediatrics.



### Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD

Arathi Reddy, DO

Rachel Amgott, NP

Christina Lazdowsky, NP

Mei Elensary, MD

Audrey Christiansen, MD

Sarah Canale, MD

Britany Weissman, MD

Mary Ellen Killion, NP

Arielle Spellun, MD

Bridget Poznanski, PhD

Rachel Vuolo, MD

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information! **To unsubscribe, please reply by email with the word "stop!"**



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The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



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