

FALL 2025

THE EMPOWERING CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Autism Society of Greater Detroit

From the Board

Our board has been preparing for our 5 year strategic plan which will begin being implemented in 2026. As we review our data, we have noted a severe increase in the number of incoming requests for our Information & Referral services.



Dubbed “Navigating Autism,” our Information & Referral service is open 24/7 for families to ask questions and obtain a response of advice and local resources from parents with experience raising special needs family members. With a focus on the needs of our community, the “Navigating Autism” program aims to deepen the understanding of common challenges and provide supports and solutions that empower individuals affected by Autism to not only survive - but thrive in our local Michigan communities.

This much needed program showed a 22% increase from past years and is funded entirely by donations. Help this program by

- Donating directly to ASGD: <https://givebutter.com/Wp3Jvl>
- Attending our Weekly Bingo at Rosemack Bingo Hall (Tuesday mornings 9am-1pm)
- Attending our upcoming Poker Events @ DiCiico’s Poker Lounge
- Joining us for a round of golf during the inaugural MI Autism Open

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

All events can be found on our activity calendar on our website:

<https://www.autismsocietygreaterdetroit.org/activity-calendar/>

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Join us for our inaugural Golf Outing



Michigan
AUTISM
Open

 **THE MICHIGAN
AUTISM OPEN**

Where Every Swing Supports the Spectrum!

SATURDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 2025
\$100 PER GOLFER

 **MAPLE LANE GOLF CLUB IN STERLING HEIGHTS**

JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURAL MICHIGAN AUTISM OPEN!

GOLF WITH PURPOSE AT THIS PREMIER CHARITY EVENT
BENEFITING THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT

WHETHER YOU'RE AIMING FOR BIRDIES OR JUST ENJOYING THE BREEZE, EVERY SWING HELPS US
BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE MICHIGAN FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY AUTISM.

- REGISTRATION AT 11AM
- SHOTGUN START AT NOON
- 12 HOLES WITH LUNCH AT THE TURN
- 50/50
- RAFFLE PRIZES
- DECOMPRESSION TENT

This meaningful event will bring together leaders, families, advocates, and professionals for a day of fun and fundraising.

Most importantly it will raise critical dollars for Autism education, support, programs, advocacy, and outreach in Southeast MI.



Lets Tee Off for impact - Together!

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS:

 **AutismSocietyGreaterDetroit.Org**

QUESTIONS?

 **MichiganAutismOpen@gmail.com**

GOLFERS BUY TICKETS NOW!

BECOME A SPONSOR ONLINE



**[www.givebutter.com/
SponsorAutismGolf-25](http://www.givebutter.com/SponsorAutismGolf-25)**

QUESTIONS?



313-687-4490



MichiganAutismOpen@gmail.com



Michigan Autism Open Sponsorships

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$5,000

GOLD SPONSOR: \$2,500

SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,000

HOLE SPONSOR: \$150

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER DETROIT
23354 GRATIOT AVE EASTPOINTE, MI 48015

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Upcoming Events

Friday, Aug 29 · 12:00 – 5:00pm

KENDRA GIVES BACK TO AUTISM SOCIETY



DATE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
12:00 – 5:00PM

LOCATION
SOMERSET COLLECTION
2800 W BIG BEAVER RD
TROY, MI 48084

Mention Autism Society In-Store

20% of purchases made on August 29
will directly benefit the Autism Society

Kendra Scott - GIVE BACK Event

ASGD gets 20% back
for every dollar spent on the lovely
jewelry at Kendra Scott's that day!
Or shop online through 9/5/25
Use code: GIVEBACK-JYGGE

Saturday, Sept 13 · 12:00pm - 10:00pm

2nd New Baltimore Blues Festival

The Sons of AMVETS Post 52 will close out summer with a
Blues Festival at Walter and Mary Burke Park: 36300 Front
St, New Baltimore.

This year's Blues Festival event will include access to the
park, music, food trucks and
our very own As.Pie Baked Goods!



Come out to enjoy some great music and a relaxed
environment in our community.
Stop by our As.Pie table for some delicious treats and
support one of ASGD's most popular programs.

Weekly Tuesday Bingo



Charity Bingo benefiting ASGD

EVERY Tuesday · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: ROSEMACK BINGO HALL
20791 E Thirteen Mile Rd
Roseville, MI 48066,
(586) 771-2464

Doors Open at 9:00am
Bingo Starts at 10:30am

Poker Occasions



Charity Poker benefiting ASGD

Location: DiCicco's Lounge
52963 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Twp, MI 48316
(586) 771-2464

September 5-8 & September 12-15
& Nov 21-25
6:30pm – 1:30am

Back to School Jitters?

If you've ever watched your child try to join a group of kids only to be ignored, rejected, or misunderstood, you're not alone. It's painful—and often, no one teaches parents what to do next.

For many neurodivergent children, connecting with peers isn't just about “making friends.” It's about learning how to notice social signals, tolerate unpredictability, manage sensory input, and recover from mistakes—all at the same time.



Helping Kids Build Peer Relationships: What Actually Works?

Here are a few small, concrete strategies that can help:

Practice specific phrases.

“Can I play too?” or “What are you building?” are more successful entry points than just jumping in or making an unrelated comment. You can role-play these at home during pretend play.

Use video modeling or social stories.

Watching short clips or reading illustrated stories that break down how kids take turns, solve conflicts, or ask questions can help children understand the “hidden rules” of peer play.

Support—not rescue—in real time.

When a child makes a social mistake, gently coach from the sidelines rather than stepping in too quickly. A simple “Try saying it like this...” can empower your child while still offering support.

Celebrate effort, not just outcomes.

Whether your child played for 30 minutes or just said “hi” before walking away, social success is about building confidence through small wins.

Set up structured social practice.

Playdates with one peer, planned activities with clear rules, or adult-facilitated turn-taking games provide the kind of scaffolding many kids need to learn how to engage.

Most importantly: If your child struggles socially, it's not a reflection of your parenting or their value. Some kids need direct teaching, rehearsal, and support to understand how connection works—and that's okay.

Check out these back-to-school tips to help prepare your Autistic loved one's transition from summer into the new school year with ease: www.marcus.org/autism-resources/autism-tips-and-resources/preparing-to-go-back-to-school?

Joint IEP Organization Panel

Learn about the organizations that support for your family's success when your child has an IEP.

Hear from representatives from

- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Arc of Michigan
- ISD Parent Advisory Committees
- Michigan Special Education Mediation Services
- Disability Rights Michigan

LEARNING CONNECTIONS WEBINAR

Supporting Families for Special Education Success

Sept 10, 2025 12 pm to 1:30 pm (EST)

Hear from representatives from Michigan Alliance for Families, the Arc of Michigan, ISD Parent Advisory Committees, Michigan Special Education Mediation Services, and Disability Rights Michigan.

They will share resources and supports available to families of children receiving special education services in Michigan.

REGISTER NOW > <https://redcap.link/lcsept10>

 Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

 Children's Special Health Care Services

 MICHIGAN FAMILY TO FAMILY

Questions? Call the CSHCS Family Phone Line 800-359-3722



Serving on Special Ed Committees

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
12:00PM - 1:30PM
REGISTER AT tinyurl.com/53usre34



This workshop will help you better understand the importance of effective parent representation on special education committees.

Parents can play an important part in these meetings. Your input can improve outcomes for your child and others.

We will share information on:

- Types of committees
- Effective involvement
- The importance of the parent voice
- What information to gather when considering serving
- Issues to consider

Your experience as a parent is valuable. As the new school year begins, you may be looking for more ways to get involved at school? Want to learn more about serving on a committee or board?

Join online on September 17 for a webinar about putting your experience and knowledge as a parent to good use. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/53usre34>

Topics covered include:

- Types of committees
- Effective involvement
- The importance of the parent voice
- What information to gather when considering serving
- Issues to consider

Who should attend? Families with a child with disabilities or learning challenges who are looking for opportunities to have impact, other interested members of the community

CDC Developmental Milestones Just Changed!

News Flash: Developmental Milestones have been Updated

You may have heard that the CDC updated its developmental milestone guidelines for young children. These changes are creating a buzz among parents, pediatricians, and educators—and for good reason.

What Changed?

For the first time since 2004, the CDC revised when children are expected to reach major milestones like:

- First words
- Smiling
- Walking
- Pointing
- Social play

The goal? To simplify early identification of developmental delays by setting milestones that 75% of children are expected to reach by a certain age (up from the previous 50%). But not everyone agrees with this approach.

Why It Matters:

Critics argue that waiting for 75% of children to meet a milestone before flagging a concern might delay early intervention—especially for children with autism or developmental differences.

This is important because early intervention has been shown to improve outcomes in language, social-emotional skills, and independence.

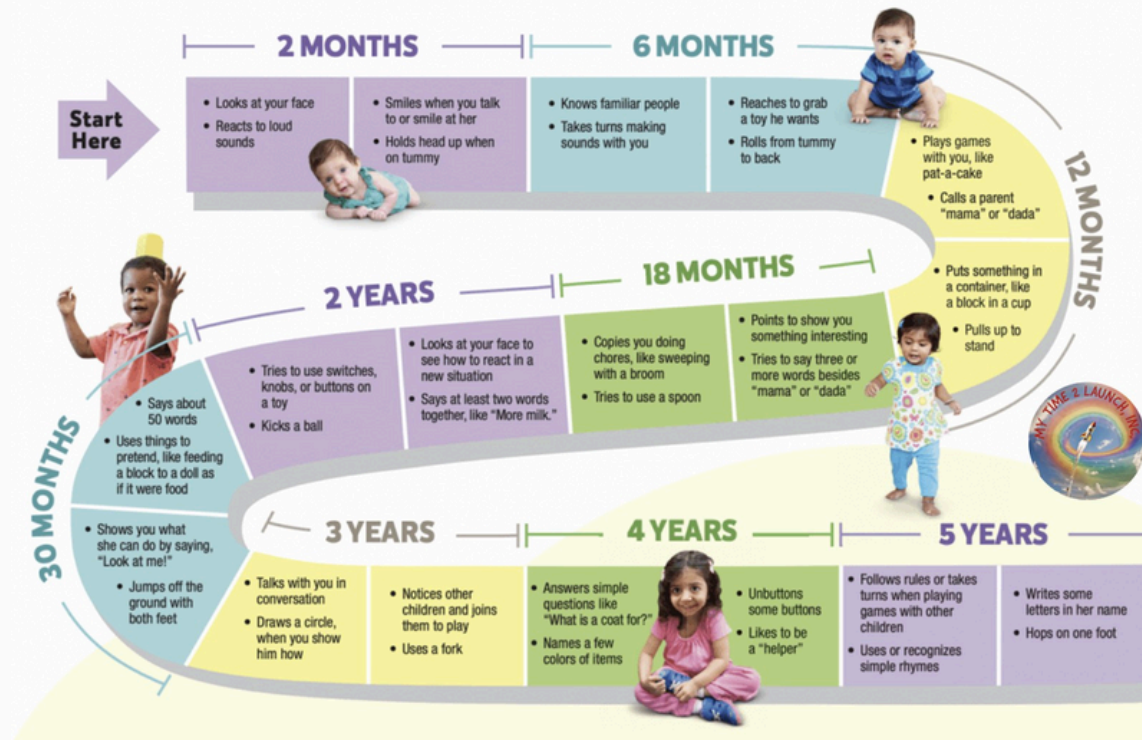
What Should Parents Do?

Milestones are a guide—not a test. If your child is missing a milestone or you have a gut feeling that something's off, trust yourself. Reach out to your pediatrician or connect with a developmental specialist. Every child's journey is unique, and milestones should empower—not scare—families.

Want a deeper dive into developmental tracking or to talk with a specialist? Check out www.MyTime2Launch.com

Your Child's Early Development is a Journey

These are just a few of many important milestones to look for. For complete checklists for your child's age visit www.cdc.gov/Milestones or download CDC's free *Milestone Tracker* app.



What is Art Therapy?

Early Signs Therapy Can Support:

- Trouble expressing thoughts verbally.
- Withdrawal or Emotional overwhelm.
- Sensory Sensitivity or Avoidance.
- Difficulty Staying Engaged in Tasks.

How Art therapy can help:

- It provides a safe outlet for feelings and ideas.
- It strengthens focus and fine motor skills.
- It encourages decision-making and independence.
- It helps with emotional regulation.
- It supports sensory integration in a gentle, engaging way.



Benefits of art therapy for adults

- Emotional Expression and Processing
- Stress Reduction and Relaxation
- Self-Awareness and Personal Growth
- Trauma Healing
- Cognitive Stimulation
- Improved Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence



Parents' FAQs Answered

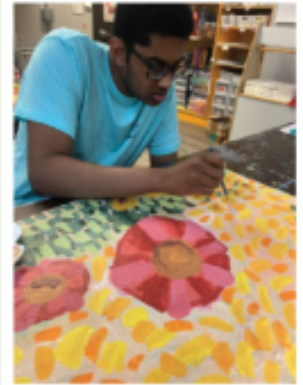
Is art therapy good for autism, and why?

Yes. Art therapy offers autistic children a creative, non-verbal way to express emotions, build confidence, and connect without pressure. It meets children where they are, supporting emotional growth through color, texture, and choice.

How can autism therapy benefit my child?

Autism therapy supports the unique needs of children with autism, helping them build skills for more independent and fulfilling lives. It goes beyond communication, enhancing emotional, social, sensory, and everyday functioning.

- **Communication Skills:** Speech and occupational therapy support both verbal and non-verbal expression, helping children share their needs and feelings.
- **Social Skills:** Therapy teaches kids how to interact, take turns, and connect with peers, reducing isolation.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Children learn to manage feelings like frustration and anxiety, helping reduce meltdowns and challenging behaviors.
- **Daily Living Skills:** Therapy supports routines like dressing, eating, and hygiene, building independence.



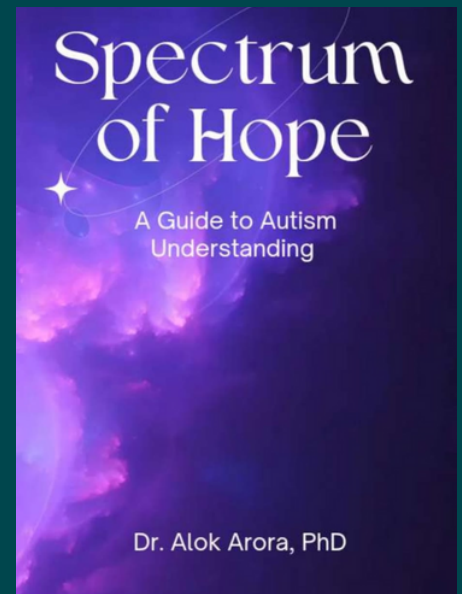
A Good Read

HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED

FREE eBook Download: "[Spectrum of Hope: A Guide to Understanding Autism](#)" written by renowned Clinical Psychologist and Autism Expert Dr. Alok Arora.

This comprehensive guide provides insights, practical tips, and expert advice on understanding autism. Whether you're a parent, caregiver, or professional, this eBook is a must-read!

Get this FREE eBook, simply connect on WhatsApp with JKPCareFoundation: <https://wa.me/919214426566>



RESOURCE SPOT LIGHT

The Imagine Center Farm - Skills Building and Community Engagement Center

A Psychologist-led, fully operational 80 acre farm in Brooklyn, MI that functions as a skills building, vocational training, community engagement center for adults with developmental disabilities, and/or acquired brain injuries.

Currently accepting referrals for I/DD consumers who are currently not working.
Transportation is Provided to all of Washtenaw County

Contact Them: 313-617-6436 or Email: mjbehen@theimaginectr.com

RARA Recreation

The #1 recreation provider for Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Oakland Township.

Check out some of their NEW Adaptive Programming this fall!

- Youth Special Olympics MI Fitness 6 Week Class (ages 8-13): Mondays, 9/22-10/27 (6pm-6:45pm) FREE
- Special Olympics MI Fitness 6 Week Class (ages 13+): Mondays, 9/22-10/27 (7pm-7:45pm) FREE
- Teen Club Create at Paint a Miracle (ages 10-13): Saturday, 9/13 / Saturday, 10/11 / Saturday, 11/8 (all 11:15am-12:15pm)
-

Find them HERE: <https://rara.activityreg.com/selectActivity?nLeaguesId=57>



Autism in the D

This group hosts children pop ups, community events, parent play & support meet ups. They are constantly striving to bring autism awareness and acceptance to the city of Detroit!

Find them HERE: <https://www.autisminthed.com>

