



GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Engaging students in learning through the development and use of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

PAWS For Your Mental Health

April 2019 Edition

Autism Awareness Month

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that typically begins in early childhood. It is considered a “spectrum” disorder as the symptoms and severity vary among children with the condition. Some children may display significant delays while in other children these delays may be mild. There is no cause of Autism but awareness, early detection, intervention, and access to appropriate services can greatly improve outcomes.
- Some of the challenges a child with autism may display are engaging in conversation, maintaining eye contact, reasoning, planning, emotional control, motor skills, intense interests, sensory sensitivities, or possibly learning delays depending on the severity of the condition.
- There are no cures for Autism but there are strategies that can help a child with ASD. First, it is important to focus on the child’s strengths and identify areas of need. Remember every child with ASD is different and may benefit from interventions differently. Children with Autism may benefit from a clear and consistent visual schedule, as transitions for children with ASD can be difficult. Teaching children with ASD social skills, such as bringing them to a restaurant and showing them what to do in a restaurant or modeling a conversation so that they can learn how to engage in conversation, is very important. Linking children with appropriate services is imperative!



New York State Autism Resources

- Autism Services Inc. (716) 631-5777 <http://friendsofasi.org>
- <https://autismwny.org/resources>
- New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities www.opwdd.ny.gov
- https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/autism/
- Autism Society of American- Western New York Chapter
19 Limestone Dr. Suite 1 Buffalo, NY 14221 www.autism-society.org
- www.autismspeaks.org

Do you have additional questions about mental health supports in the area or concerned about your child? Please contact your child’s school counseling office and ask to speak with a counselor or social worker.

Mental Health Newsletter
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