



## Austin ISD Autism Acceptance Resources 2025

### Autism Acceptance Month Ideas for Campuses Table of Contents

1. [Online Resources](#)
  2. [Additional Awareness Activities](#)
  3. [Classroom Learning Ideas](#)
  4. [Tips for Being a Friend](#)
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### Online Resources for Educators

- [Understood.org/What is Autism](#)
  - NewsELA: [Sesame Street Introduces Character with Autism](#)
  - [Texas Autism Resource Guide for Effective Teaching](#)
  - [Teaching Students with Autism](#)
  - Learning Opportunity for Families: [Autism Learning Series \(Eng\)](#), [Autism Learning Series \(Spn\)](#)
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### Additional Awareness Ideas

Here is a basic list of awareness ideas that you can use to help spread acceptance of autism and other differences in your school:

- Post facts about autism on colored paper around the school or talk about them in the morning announcements. You can find a list of Autism Society approved facts [here](#).
- Invite campus and community speakers to talk about autism. Speakers can be people on the spectrum, family members of individuals with autism or professionals in the field.
- Ask the campus librarian to select and curate books about Autism throughout April (see examples [here](#)).

### Classroom Learning Ideas

Help students learn about and more easily accept others with autism by one of the following activities:

- Teach a lesson on tips for being a friend to someone with autism.
- Choose books or stories for students to read that have individuals with autism as characters (see examples [here](#)).
- Have students decorate autism ribbons or posters and decorate the classroom or door with the creations.
- Have students make a pocket-sized booklet about Autism to spread awareness.
- Encourage students to write letters to legislators about the needs of students with disabilities, including autism. Students will need to think critically about this issue and learn how to constructively write and advocate for this cause.





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- Create a pen pal system where students write letters, draw pictures, or cards, fostering friendship and connection as well as reading and writing skills – could be pen pals within the school as appropriate.

### **Tips for Being a Friend to a Student with Autism** (*Borrowed from The Autism Society of Akron*)

Understanding autism starts at a young age, and there is no greater place than the classroom to start. Understanding autism and how to interact with people with autism comes from being exposed to them, and being taught how to treat and talk to someone with autism. Children naturally want to be helpful. Give them that opportunity by encouraging them to be a buddy to someone with autism. It is up to teachers and parents to teach children about differences, acceptance, and understanding. Here are some ideas on how to get started.

- People are born with autism and while they look just like you and me, autism changes the way their brain works and processes information.
- Some people with autism talk/speak and others do not. Just because they cannot talk or speak in the same way you do, doesn't mean they don't have anything to say.
- Being kind and compassionate is one of the best things you can do to help someone with autism.
- Here are a few ways to be a friend to others:
  - Playing games they like to play.
  - Talking to them like you would any other kid.
  - Giving them a high five, thumbs up, or signal when you're having fun!
  - Sitting next to them in the lunchroom or during essential areas.
  - Show them what to do so they can imitate you.
  - Being a buddy to them on the playground.
  - Walking with them to the next class.
  - Supporting them with kindness and understanding.
  - Ask about their interests - you may share similar interests like collecting cards, playing video games, watching the same TV show or movie, reading the same genre of books, or participation in the same school subject.

