

Middle States

United States Google Alerts for April 2021, News for Autism Month (also they had one from Canada and, I think, Jamaica). Researched by Ronda Fletcher Marchant Smart

Sorry, Google didn't send me anything from some news stations, and not everything from the news station that they did send. I just did the Google Alerts that were sent for the month of April 2021.

Toronto, CANADA

Autism Month has been the subject of protest from individual and organizations in Canada, “powerful advocacy awareness campaigns and organizations that fund them led by non-autistic people — continue to portray autistic people negatively” and, continue to focus on cures. Words such as “inclusion,” “acceptance” are their campaigns, not meaning what they mean, but advancing the rhetoric of an autism disorder. As parents and researchers, there is not a need.

Autistic people experience higher rates of bullying. Families struggle with the stigmatizing, and the lack of the meaningful relevant, so called, “help”. **1. Awareness.** Mainstream media still limits diverse representation. **2. Perspective.** Rather than focus on charitable organizations and “helping,” we need to turn our attention to [not]. **3. Leadership.** The guidance and leadership is about normal (there’s no such thing as autistic), as it’s being taught. We need to focus away from “blue lights, ribbons or other gimmicks”, **4. Neurodiversity.** Talk of a disorder must be left behind, and replaced with [4 columns and 6 rows], altered by me. **5. Inclusion.** We need to rectify the persistent exclusion of other viewpoints. We all have deficits.

“This April, and every month, we need to reconsider the World” of less social skills from the perspective of people with less social skills themselves. This was a really good article, I think. Douglas, Patty, Michael Orsini, and Estee Klar. (2021, April 21). 5 ways to challenge systemic ableism during Autism Acceptance Month. **The Conversation CA.** <https://theconversation.com/5-ways-to-challenge-systemic-ableism-during-autism-acceptance-month-159122>

Illinois

People with lower social skills are discriminated against in the workplace. (2021, April 17). *EDITORIAL: April is World Autism Month* **Chilliwack Progress.** <https://www.theprogress.com/opinion/editorial-april-is-world-autism-month/>

The police are supporting this as a fundraiser. (2021, April 16). *Marlborough, Hudson police mark autism awareness month.* **Community Advocate.** <https://www.communityadvocate.com/2021/04/16/marlborough-hudson-police-mark-autism-awareness-month/>

Unique Sweets in **Chicago**, a bakery, was started by his mother to help a person with this. Walsh, Molly. (2021, April 25). *Chicago Bakery Helps Young Adults with Autism.* **NBC Chicago.** <https://www.nbcchicago.com/local/2/local-bakery-helps-young-adults-with-autism/2494882/>

Jeanne Kramer at the **University of Illinois** works with children with speech-language problems. She has one child with this. Walker, Clint. (2021, May 1). *FACTS FOR FAMILIES: Move from awareness to acceptance by*

debunking autism myths. **Journal Gazette and Times-Courier**. https://jg-tc.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/facts-for-families-move-from-awareness-to-acceptance-by-debunking-autism-myths/article_6de492f4-22ce-5682-8184-f192daec3b3d.html

Champaign, Ill, talks of the CU network that support this. (2021, April 11). *Local organization celebrating Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month*. **WCIA .com**. <https://www.wcia.com/news/local-organization-celebrating-autism-awareness-and-acceptance-month/>

Indiana

Bloomington, IN, is supporting this with a college intern program (College Internship Program) moving 18-26 year-olds to better employment, social skills and academic. This is a program to work people into employment with low social skills. I really like this article. Crash, Melissa. (2021, April 19). *'CIP' supports young adults with autism, learning differences through unique program in Bloomington*. **Fox 59**. <https://fox59.com/news/cip-supports-young-adults-with-autism-learning-differences-through-unique-program-in-bloomington/>

Michigan

Kalamazoo, MI, talks about people with lower social skills and employment. Lexie says many of these have strong work, problem-solving skills and visual skills, trustworthy, and reliable. Many are underemployed. This is good, the article. Petrovic, Lexie. (2021, April 9). *Advocates push to break the stigma for adults with autism in the workforce*. **WWMT TV News Channel 3**. <https://wwmt.com/news/local/advocates-push-to-break-the-stigma-for-adults-with-autism-in-the-workforce>

Rob Lloyd of **West Michigan** is involved with ABA and talks about this. Kiessel, Jeff. (2021, April 26). *April is National Autism Awareness Month*. Ludington Daily News. https://www.shorelinemedia.net/ludington_daily_news/news/local/april-is-national-autism-awareness-month/article_4c6cc5d0-c556-536b-ab40-b2060207e7e4.html

Fenton Michigan Jessica Biggs, a seventh grader is doing art and with this. **Stone, Sharon**. (2021, April 23). *April is Autism Awareness Month*. Myfenton.com times. https://www.tctimes.com/news/april-is-autism-awareness-month/article_68e3020e-a458-11eb-93a6-b344132aa5c3.html

St. Paul MI University of St. Thomas, Colin Brusnahan wanted to see Romeo and Juliet. Because he has lower social skills and communication skills and is on this, his mother was surprised he was intelligent. Price, Lauren and Rabia Malik. (2021, May 3). *Autism advocates strive to go beyond awareness*. **Tommie Media**. <https://www.tommiemedia.com/news/autism-advocates-strive-to-go-beyond-awareness/>

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer supports this, and employment. (2021, April 21). *Autism Awareness Month* **Escanaba Daily Press**. <https://www.dailypress.net/opinion/editorial/2021/04/autism-awareness-month/>

Fairmont, MIN supports this. They talk about someone with this. Faith, Blake. (2021, April 24). *Autism awareness: Scott Carlson* **Fairmont Sentinel** <https://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/04/24/autism-awareness-scott-carlson/>

Project Lifesaver in **Minnesota** is a safe return of individuals with cognitive disorders that comes from wandering. Clients wear a bracelet. (2021, April 28). *Beltrami County Sheriff's Office recognizes Autism Acceptance Month*. Bemidji Pioneer. <https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/community/7006145-Beltrami-County-Sheriff%E2%80%99s-Office-recognizes-Autism-Acceptance-Month>

Lansing, Mich. Zoo provides a safe experience for those with special needs, a monthly program, FALCONERS, is for them. The zoo has quiet areas and quiet places. (2021, April 16). *Potter Park Zoo Celebrates Autism Acceptance Month with fun programs*. WILX-TV. <https://www.wilx.com/2021/04/16/potter-park-zoo-celebrates-autism-acceptance-month-with-fun-programs/>

Police departments are using calming bags, stickers for car windows, and training in **Detroit**. (2021, April 22). *Several local police departments helping increase autism awareness*. WXYZ Detroit ABC 7. <https://www.wxyz.com/news/several-local-police-departments-helping-increase-autism-awareness>

Minnesota

Bloomington, MINN has a fundraiser walk in the mall parking lot. They have a drive-thru with animals, bubbles, music, giveaways, a virtual reality experience, and goodies. (2021, April 13). *Fraser Festival for Autism Returns to Mall of America*. Cision PRNewswire. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/fraser-festival-for-autism-returns-to-mall-of-america-301268047.html>

Minnesota activities for special needs are RV Camping, Paul Bunyan Park play, the Headwaters Science Center, Lake Bemidji State Park camping, Paul Bunyan Trail geocaching, berry picking, gardening, bike riding, swimming, and the library. This was informative, a good article. Barton, Bria. (2021, April 17). *In recognition of Autism Acceptance Month, here are some autism-friendly things to do in Bemidji*. Bemidji Pioneer. <https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/lifestyle/travel/6988022-In-recognition-of-Autism-Acceptance-Month-here-are-some-autism-friendly-things-to-do-in-Bemidji>

Iowa

Davenport, Iowa, an autism center is having a grand opening for special needs 2-18. (2021, April 29). *New Resource for Children with Autism in the Quad Cities*. Southernminn.com. https://www.southernminn.com/around_the_web/news/article_391421ec-93b6-59a3-b339-5aaa418b7569.html

Ohio

Toledo, OH, talks about unemployed adults with a college degree with this, having less social skills. (2021, April 26). *Advocates want this to be named Autism Acceptance Month, rather than merely awareness*. **WTOL 11**. <https://www.wtol.com/video/news/local/advocates-want-this-to-be-named-autism-acceptance-month-rather-than-merely-awareness/512-892f84c5-8f3f-41af-8d48-6e64d55663ea>

Cincinnati Dr. Candice Claiborne talks about their testing center. (2021, April 22). *Autism Awareness Month-clipped version*. **Fox19Now**. <https://www.fox19.com/video/2021/04/22/autism-awareness-month-clipped-version/>

Lindsey is over a center. Esker, Lindsey. (2021, April 18). *Autism Awareness Month: Understanding autism*. **Norwalk Reflector**. <https://norwalkreflector.com/news/315578/autism-awareness-month-understanding-autism/>

Wisconsin, OH. An NIH-funded study can look at eye movements of a toddler on a smart screen or Ipad and choose if the child is autistic, where children are less responsive to social signals, visual eye tracking. They hope to track children at 6 months. Children that do not focus on social interactions on the screen were said to be defective. If children look at spinning tops and bubbles, they are labeled as defective. Park, Andrew. (2021, April 27). *Can An App Spot Kids With Autism?*. **Disability Scoop**. <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/medtech/eyes-have-it-nih-prototype-app-screens-for-autism-by-tracking-toddlers-visual-movements>

She has a son in this and works in speech-language pathology. Reck, Alexa. (2021, April 10). *First Person /Autism Awareness Month could benefit from broader recognition*. **The Columbus Dispatch**. <https://www.dispatch.com/story/lifestyle/2021/04/10/first-person-autism-awareness-month-could-benefit-broader-recognition/7098532002/>

The board of Education honored a graduate, talking about the special education teacher.

People who are in special ed are harmed more by the labeling than any problem they might have. This is according to an Elder Richards who talked with me 25 years in **Special Ed** in Arizona and 25 years with the prison. It's the labeling that is harmful, he said. Hall, Linda. (2021, May 3). *Norwayne marks Autism Awareness Month by recognizing 2018 graduate*. **Wooster Daily Record**. <https://www.the-daily-record.com/story/news/education/2021/05/03/norwayne-marks-autism-awareness-month-honor-2018-graduate/4922460001/>

Veronique has a son with this. She was not able to get her son to wear a mask. It's expensive for trainers, she says. Jamaica does not have information on autism statistics in the country. Wilson-Harris, Nadine. (2021, May 3). *Autism's heavy toll*. **Jamaica Gleaner**. <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20210503/autisms-heavy-toll#slideshow-1>

Kirsten Cooper of **Wisconsin (Green Bay)** talks about people welcoming people with lower social skills. Kirsten is over a center. They ask people to share stories.

Will teenagers who are not nice treat people in kind ways? Does labeling support individuals? Deem, Emily. (2021, April 20). *Learning more about Autism Acceptance Month*. **Fox11online.com**. <https://fox11online.com/good-day-wi/learning-more-about-autism-acceptance-month>

He was found in snowy conditions in **Michigan's Upper Peninsula**. At 17 he is not wearing enough clothing for the cold, not knowing how to get help, and without a sense of direction. (2021, April 26). *Update: Body of*

missing UP teenager with autism found. **Fox11online.com.** <https://fox11online.com/news/local/hundreds-search-for-missing-autistic-teen-in-up-04-26-2021>

Milwaukee, WI, Kelly Backes talks about her son. He is bullied because he is in this. Virtual education is hard, somethings were shut down. They offer support groups and other services, the centers. The Ungala is not in person, it's a virtual dinner, movie, or a silent auction, a fundraiser. (2021, April 17). *VIDEO: Autism Society hosts first-annual Ungala for Autism Acceptance Month.* **WISN ABC 12 Milwaukee.** <https://www.wisn.com/article/video-autism-society-hosts-first-annual-ungala-for-autism-acceptance-month/36151852#>

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