

# Adventures in Autism

My Autism Ally Newsletter

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***FEBRUARY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY***

***Communicating With Schools***

***Tuesday, February 27th***

***6:30-8pm - via Zoom***



**myautismally.org**



Join us on Tuesday,  
February 27th from 6:30-  
8pm via Zoom as we host  
Samantha Drudge, Special  
Education Liaison for  
IN\*SOURCE. This  
presentation will provide  
ideas to build positive  
relationships between  
parents and schools  
through verbal and  
nonverbal communication.,

Join us via Zoom on Tuesday, February 27th from 6:30-8pm as Samantha Drudge, Special Education Liaison for INSOURCE presents, Communicating With Schools: Collaborative Strategies For Positive Outcomes.

Federal and state special education law provides structure for positive working relationships between parents and schools. The use of effective communication techniques can enhance collaborative relationships and minimize conflict. This presentation will provide ideas to build positive relationships between parents and schools through verbal and nonverbal communication.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for this informative training!

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## **AUSOME PLAYDATES**

Join us on Saturday, March 2nd for our first AUSOME PLAYDATE of the year! What are Ausome Playdates you ask? They are smaller gatherings where the whole family is invited to come. These are great opportunities for your child to socialize and for you to connect with other caregivers. Some of the outings will be free, others will have additional cost.

Our first playdate of 2024 is a Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt at Combat Ops. The event has limited space available and **RSVP's are REQUIRED.** [Please fill out this form](#) Due to the limited space, we are asking that each child be accompanied by ONE ADULT. For example, if you have two children, you can have two adults attending, but not more than two. Thank you for helping us serve as many families/children as possible.

Combat Ops will be closed to the general public during our event. Light refreshments are available for purchase from Combat Ops, but outside snacks are allowed for our kiddos that have food sensitivities. Combat Ops will have most of their games available- *we're going to take a pass on the axe throwing...*

For more information about the games and associated costs to play, please visit their website <https://combatops.com/fort-wayne/> **The egg hunt is free.**

There will be a sensory calming space available. Please email us at [info@myautismally.org](mailto:info@myautismally.org) if you have additional questions.



# ***Valentine's additions to Gifts That Give Back!***

Are you shopping for someone special? Perhaps you're looking for something for yourself. Let your purchases DOUBLE the JOY! The proceeds from your donation, allows My Autism Ally support and expand autism programming in northern Indiana. See all of the available items on our website <https://www.myautismally.org/giftsthatgiveback>



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***MARCH TRAINING OPPORTUNITY***  
***Navigating the SSI Process***  
***Thursday, March 21st***  
***6:30-8pm - via Zoom***

# Navigating

## the SSI Process



Join us on Thursday, March 21st from 6:30-8pm via Zoom as we learn more about how to navigate the SSI Process with Karly Poulter, Executive Director of the ARC of Indiana Advocacy Network.



myautismally.org

Join us via Zoom on Thursday, March 21st from 6:30-8pm when we host Karly Poulter, Executive Director of the ARC Advocacy Network. Karly will be presenting on the topic, Navigating the SSI Process. Karly will explain Social Security disability programs, the process Social Security uses to make a disability determination, and steps families can take to make this process easier.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for this informative training!

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## ***Spring Into Reading!***

***Saturday, April 13th noon-3pm***

*Walb Student Union Purdue Fort Wayne*

**SENSORY FRIENDLY**

**Dr. Seuss**

**Spring Into Reading**

An event for individuals with disabilities and their siblings to celebrate reading along with games and crafts.

**SATURDAY, April 13, 2024**

**Noon-3pm**

**Walb Student Union**

**Classic Ballroom**

**Purdue Fort Wayne**



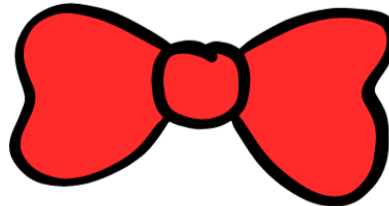
**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
FORT WAYNE**

School of Education



**"You're never too old,  
too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book &  
read to a child."**

**Dr. Seuss**



We are once again partnering with Purdue Fort Wayne School of Education to host our annual **sensory friendly Dr. Seuss Party** and you are invited to be part of the fun! The focus of the event is to celebrate reading, have fun with crafts and games and get valuable information about resources in our community. **This event is FREE.** Join us on **Saturday, April 13th at the Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom on the PFW campus - 2101 East Coliseum Boulevard Fort Wayne, IN 46805.** Here is a campus map to help you. <https://www.pfw.edu/campus-map>

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***Light It Up RED***

***For Autism ACCEPTANCE April 2024***



Check out our [webpage](#) for more details! Join us as we light our community **RED** this April for Autism **ACCEPTANCE** month!



***SAVE THE DATE!***

***COMING  
April 2024***

***Light it up RED  
for Autism Acceptance***



# **My Autism Ally** *Autism Acceptance* **WALK**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 8TH  
NOON- 3:30PM**

**ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
2726 CARROLL ROAD  
FORT WAYNE, IN**

**Are you a provider of autism services?**

**Then you need to attend the largest autism  
acceptance event in Indiana!**

Join us RAIN OR SHINE on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at the Allen County Fairgrounds 2726 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46748 from **noon-3:30pm**. It's an afternoon of activities and resources for the whole family- including supports for those of all ages on the autism spectrum. It's **FREE** to attend and **FREE** parking, Over 2000 people joined us last year for a fun filled activities including:

- food vendors
- indoor vendor fair
- crafts
- games
- music play



- pony rides
- petting zoo
- sensory exploration
- cosplay- princess and superheroes
- touch a truck - including first responder vehicles

This year's unity walk will start at 3pm. The event will end after the walk is completed.

Partnerships and Vendor Fair Spaces are now open. Find out more about this year's event, including photos on our website.

<https://www.myautismally.org/autism-acceptance-walk>

You can download this year's Partnership/Vendor Fair information [here](#)

Additional questions email us at [info@myautismally.org](mailto:info@myautismally.org)

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***A HUGE Thank You to our  
2024 Autism Acceptance Walk Partners!***





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## Ways to support My Autism Ally

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There are many ways to support us financially. Choose the one that works best for you.

[Kroger Community Rewards](#)

[Facebook Fundraiser](#)

Credit Card donation on our [website](#)

[PayPal Give At Checkout](#)

PayPal's Give at Checkout enables you to donate to charity when completing a purchased. You can set favorite charities to be displayed to you at checkout and they are rotated on a regular basis. ***PayPal covers transaction fees for Give at Checkout donations, so 100% of the money goes to the charity. My Autism Ally is an approved charity.***

Or make a purchase through our [Gifts That Give Back](#)

Let your purchases DOUBLE the JOY! The proceeds from your donation, allows My Autism Ally support and expand autism programming in northern Indiana. And, you're supporting a locally owned, autism connected small business.



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**Our mailing address is:**

My Autism Ally

PO Box 15

Huntertown, IN 46748