



CPW Celebrates Autism Awareness Month

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) will celebrate the month of April being National Autism Awareness Month. Autism currently affects 1 in 68 children, making it the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. Boys are four times more likely to have autism than girls. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

CPW serves many children and adults with autism and offers special programming for them and their families. Our Saturday Explorers program provides many opportunities, such as increase socialization through structured play, help increase learning through one on one interaction with a staff person, and increasing attention spans by changing activities often to keep the attendees interested and learning. The program also incorporates CPW's Lekotek program which provides a way to learn during play sessions that are facilitated in an environment that promotes interactive play among family members.

Our 6th Annual Autism Awareness Walk will be on Friday April 27th, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at The United Preschool located in White Plains. A *Pieces of Hope Tree* will also be displayed from puzzle pieces that are available for purchase. Custom designed by our students, this tree will raise awareness for all children and young adults who benefit from CPW's autism services.

For over 69 years, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester has been the leading non-profit organization in Westchester County, providing essential services to children and adults with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. It has always been our purpose to help people realize their goals, build brighter futures, and lead more independent lives as members of their community.

For more information about our programs please contact:

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