

Join CPW's United Preschool Center in celebrating
Autism Acceptance Month

Help build our

2025

**Tree of
Friendship
& Acceptance**



Join us in raising awareness and acceptance of people with autism and at the same time help our programs to grow . . . one owl at a time!

Each \$5 "owl of acceptance" you purchase will be custom designed by our students. The artwork will complete and expand this year's beautiful *Tree of Friendship & Acceptance*.

ArtsMobile Workshops



This year we are raising money for art class visits from WestchesterArts' ArtsMobile!

Our Tree will be on display in the UPC entrance hall during our *Autism Acceptance Celebration* Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 10:00 am – Family and Friends are welcome to attend.

Thank you for supporting our Tree of Friendship & Acceptance Fundraiser

Your contribution is an owl for our tree – just \$5 each

Payment must be received by Wednesday, April 2, 2025. Please return to the United Preschool Center

United Preschool Center, attn: Tree of Acceptance, 456 North St, White Plains, NY 10605

Or pay online with a credit card at <https://form.jotform.com/230605736923154>

Full Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Email _____

Number of Owls at \$5 each: _____ I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

The United Preschool Center is a division of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. For more information contact Marcy Weintraub at 914.937.3800 ext. 627, marcy.weintraub@cpwestchester.org or Stephanie Russo at 914.937.3800 ext 411, stephanie.russo@cpwestchester.org / www.cpwestchester.org

Held each year during April, World Autism Acceptance Month aims to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, foster worldwide support and inspire a kinder, more inclusive world.

Why April Is Autism Acceptance Month, Not Autism Awareness Month

Language matters

By K. M. Kovalcik, a writer and teacher who works with students who have behavioral and emotional challenges at a private school. You can read the full article at: <https://www.weareteachers.com/autism-acceptance-not-awareness/>

April is known for spring, flowers, and Autism Acceptance Month. This April, autism rights groups are asking schools and the media to focus on the inclusion and acceptance of those with different neurologies. This starts with the small, but significant, change from Autism Awareness to Autism Acceptance.

Acceptance vs. Awareness

Many self-advocates for autism spectrum disorders view their neurology as a difference in thinking, not something that needs to be cured. Self-advocates ask for acceptance and support, not isolation. Like everyone, those with autism want acceptance for both their strengths and weaknesses.

Autism Acceptance in the World

Since 2011 the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) has been asking others to call April “Autism Acceptance Month.” For many with autism, it is a part of who they are and not something that can be cured without destroying a part of themselves. Acceptance of these differences is what leads to a happy life, not a cure. The Autism Society, a group of parents and doctors, has also called for the name change, citing that stigma against individuals with autism is often the biggest barrier to self-actualization.

What Autism Means to Educators

Several teachers with autism speak out about what autism acceptance means and how it helps their classrooms. Here are some great responses.

“To me, autistic acceptance means a willingness to learn and to accept our differences, to facilitate an environment that allows us to be included, and to understand that our worth is not defined by others’ inconvenience.” —Mrs. Taylor

“The normalization of divergence in every brain and body. There are so many variables in our nature and nurture, internal and external, known and unknown ... ‘normal’ needs to be replaced with ‘common,’ with an emphasis on ‘healthy’ and ‘unhealthy’ . . . ”

“Just by identifying myself, I see in every class I am in, a few students brighten up that I am like them. I see the other students, who like me and see me successful in my role, realize not only am I not ashamed, but I’m proud to be who I am.” —GraceIAMVP

“Autism acceptance means that neurodivergent people have their differences celebrated and recognized as strengths, rather than characterized as weaknesses.”

“Being autistic makes me more understanding of others (especially children). It also helps me give students more of a chance to be the best version of themselves, instead of trying to get them to conform.”
—a teacher from Texas

Autism needs to be understood and included as part of the human experience. This April, think of what you can do to create a more inclusive world and fight for it!