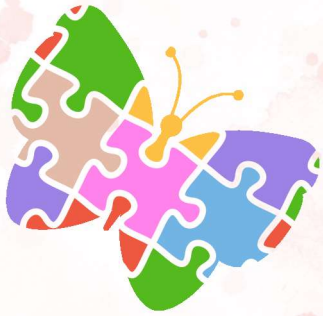


# Accepting the Spectrum

April 2026 Newsletter

By: Grace Majewski, RBT



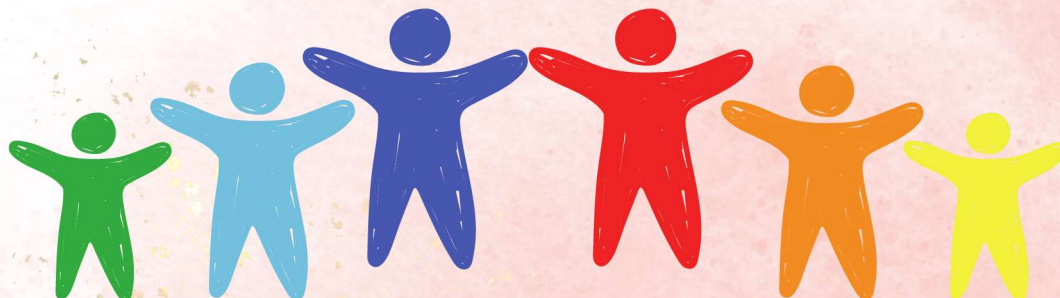
COLLABORATIVE  
ABA SERVICES, LLC

## Autism Acceptance Month - Moving Beyond Awareness Towards Meaningful Advocacy

April is recognized as Autism Acceptance Month - a time to reflect, learn, and recommit to creating a more inclusive and supportive world for individuals with autism. While awareness has grown significantly throughout the years, true acceptance requires us to go even further. It calls for internal action, ongoing education, and a sincere commitment to uplifting the voices of those with autism in meaningful ways.

In the field of ABA, we are uniquely positioned to contribute to this shift. Acceptance is not just about recognizing differences - it is about respecting, valuing, and supporting individuals in ways that honor their autonomy, preferences, and dignity.

Keep reading to learn more about what autism looks like in practice and for concrete steps one can take to continue growing advocacy.



# *What does autism look like in practice?*

Acceptance begins with listening. Centering the perspectives of individuals with autism helps guide more compassionate and effective practices. It means recognizing that every individual has unique strengths, challenges, and goals - and that our role is to support socially significant behaviors that will benefit the lives of clients, not change who they are.

It also means advocating against a one-size-fits-all approach in therapy. Providing personalized care, assent-based practice, trauma-informed care, and so much more, clients remain active participants in their own treatment. This helps ensure that services are both ethical and empowering for the individual and their families.

## *Steps to Continue to Grow Advocacy*

1. **Listen to and amplify voices from individuals with autism:** Seek out and learn from autistic individuals who share their experiences. Read their work, follow their platforms, and prioritize their perspectives in conversations about autism.
2. **Educate yourself and others:** Take time to learn about autism from diverse, reputable sources. Share accurate information within your circles to help challenge misconceptions and reduce stigma.
3. **Use respectful and inclusive language.** Be mindful about how you speak about autism! Respect individual preferences, such as person-first language (“person with autism” instead of “autistic person”).
4. **Promote acceptance in everyday settings.** Advocate for inclusive practices in schools, workplaces, and community spaces. This can include supporting sensory-friendly environments, flexible communication styles, and accessibility for all.
5. **Celebrate strengths and differences.** Shift the focus from “fixing” differences to valuing them. Recognize and appreciate the unique perspectives and abilities that individuals with autism bring to the world.
6. **When it matters, speak up.** Challenge stereotypes, misinformation, or exclusion when you encounter it. Advocacy can be as simple as correcting a misconception or as involved as supporting policy changes.
7. **Model acceptance and kindness:** Demonstrate kindness, patience, and openness in your daily interactions. Small actions can have a meaningful ripple effect in shaping a more inclusive community.

By taking these steps - both big and small - we can all play a role in fostering a culture of understanding, respect, and true acceptance that extends far beyond the month of April.



# Agency News

We are excited to announce the release of “It’s Okay Mattie,” a story written by the Founder and Executive Clinical Director of Collaborative ABA Services, LLC, Alisha Simpson-Watt, LCSW, BCBA, LBA.

“It’s Okay, Mattie,” is a children’s book regarding autism and learning how to cope. There is also additional resources and information for parents and caregivers.



Find “It’s Okay, Mattie,” on Amazon and where books are sold!



APRIL IS  
WORLD  
AUTISM  
MONTH



## 5<sup>th</sup> FREE Autism Education & Awareness Forum

**Learn. Connect. Empower.**

✓ Expert Speakers ✓ Resource Fair ✓ Live Q&A

COETAMETAL PRESENTS  
Maggie McFly's Lunch  
with registration



**Saturday, April 18, 2026**  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Waterbury Arts Magnet School



**Register by April 8 –  
FREE Admission**

### FEATURED SESSIONS

- ✓ Parent Panels (Live Q&A)
- ✓ ABA Services Explained
- ✓ Life After High School
- ✓ Early Childhood Support (Ages 3–6)
- ✓ Legal & Financial Planning
- ✓ Self-Advocate Panel

+ **6** more expert-led sessions

### RESOURCE FAIR FEATURING:



- Autism Services
- Advocacy Organizations
- Schools & Programs
- Local Support Providers

Meet experts. Ask questions. Find real support.

**MAGGIE MCFLY'S**  
local craft, eatery & bar



Sun, Moon & Stars

Donuts by Brooklyn Bakery Company



**SPECIAL GUEST  
MODERATOR**

**RENEE  
DININO**

**WFSB**  
Channel 3



### WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- ✓ Get answers from real experts
- ✓ Connect with other families
- ✓ Discover local resources
- ✓ Walk away with actionable tools

### FREE RAFFLE!

Win one of  
**SIX \$50**  
Gift Cards



\*Must be present to win\*



**Register Now: [TheSocialChase.org/FORUM](https://TheSocialChase.org/FORUM)**

**Spots are limited**

Algunos talleres en español que utilizan AI



AND



PROUDLY PRESENT

# Sensory Friendly Family Night!

Promoting Inclusivity for Children of All Abilities

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 2026 5-8pm



**SPECIAL PRICING**  
**\$15.99 per Child**

Includes admission for  
up to two adults

Sign Waver  
&  
Register Here



**FREE**

Face painting  
&  
Temporary tattoos

<https://forms.gle/wQwBRhbioc6g61mD8>

For Questions or Help Registering for This Event: (860) 421-4052



Step into the Spectrum with

# Collab Merch

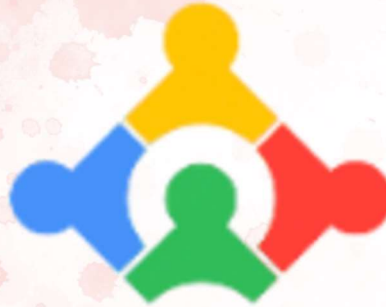


Check out our products at:

<https://collaborativeabastore.com/>

& get 15% off your order with discount code COLLABCHEER15

Don't forget to check out  
**COLLABYWAIT**



**COLLABWAIT**

**Clarity, Support, and Real Updates**  
— All in One Place

CollabWait is a new software launched by Collaborative ABA Services, LLC that helps navigate services with confidence by showing waitlist positions, agency availability, and important updates in real-time. Agencies and families can learn more about CollabWait at [www.collabwait.com](http://www.collabwait.com)



# THE AUTISM MOM COACH

As Spring shines on and Summer fast approaches, it is important to think of how to best support our children. With changes in routine, weather, and so much more, Lisa talks about how Summer can feel like a tug-of-war for parents and caregivers. Click the link below to read her Blog: “Summer with an Autistic Child: When Plans Go Up in Smoke.”



## BLOGS

Summer with an Autistic  
Child: When Plans Go Up  
in Smoke

[READ BLOG POST](#)