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## *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Recognizing the Early Signs*

Autism spectrum disorders are developmental disabilities that can cause social, language, and behavior problems. Their symptoms and severity vary greatly, which can make them hard to define or diagnose. Looking out for early warning signs and symptoms can mean the important difference between early detection and intervention. More intervention early on can mean smaller developmental delays later in life.

If you believe that your child demonstrates 2 or more of the following symptoms, it might be a good idea to have them screened for autism spectrum disorders.

- A**lways
- U**nique
- T**otally
- I**nteresting
- S**ometimes
- M**ysterious

Physical development is delayed or your child has difficulty with fine motor skills even after opportunities for practice. Social signs and symptoms include poor eye contact, preferring to play alone, and resisting cuddling. Other symptoms include repeating words or phrases meaninglessly, intense difficulty with changes to routine, repeating movements, or sensitivity to light, sound or touch. Children with autism spectrum disorders often do not engage in pretend play, like playing house or pretending to drive a car.

If you are concerned that your child might be exhibiting these symptoms, talk to your child's teacher. Share your concern and ask the teacher to be on the lookout for warning signs as well. Also, make use of the ASQ Ages and Stages website and questionnaire!

This screening tool is available to all of our parents online and can help you to understand and plan for your child's development whether they exhibit signs of autism spectrum disorders or not. For more information on the ASQ Ages and Stages Screening tool, talk to Angelo.

For more about autism spectrum disorders and signs/symptoms: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism>

**April Is  
AUTISM  
Month**

### TAKE NOTE

- Chicago weather is variable throughout most of the early Spring. Please make sure that your child has clothes that allow her/him to be comfortable in both indoor and outdoor temperatures.



### UPCOMING DATES

- CLOSED Friday, April 18th for Good Friday

*Ms. Stephane and Ms. Vanessa's Bumblebees Class 2-year-olds*



Cat in the Hat

Spring is finally here and the children couldn't be happier!

In March, the children had fun celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday and made The Cat In The Hat art!

For the month of April, we

will celebrate earth day and also talk about spring! Our crafts includes but not limited to making puffy paint garden, Paper plate world buddy for earth day and spring animals! Our letters

for the month are letters F and A. Our activities include but are not limited to having a picnic outside; the teachers will draw puddles on the ground for the children to jump over.

*Ms. Sandra and Ms. Daulet's Chipmunks Class 3-year-olds*

April has now arrived as did spring! We are all excited to be back outdoors enjoying the sun! What a fun March we had. We celebrated dr. Seuss birthday, st. Patrick's day, had fun with colors, talked

about babies, and welcomed in spring. This month looks like we will be having just as much fun! Letters this month will be R, A, and S. We will talk about rabbits, spring (we will do spring again

since we can do some outdoors projects) and continue with some other fun learning activities. Parents your child is always welcome to bring in a book related to our theme to share.



Painting Shamrocks

*Ms. Alex, Ms. Tammie and Ms. Yoon's Butterflies Class 4-year-olds*



April showers bring May flowers

April has arrived and the weather is finally changing! Last month was colder, but we had a lot of fun learning about the 5 senses, celebrating the new spring season, and exploring science and math during our outer space

and numbers units. As we prepare for the warm weather, we also prepare for a lot of great themes in the month of April. We will continue our numbers unit, followed by flowers, rain and Earth day/recycling week. Please be sure to return clean clothes (weather

appropriate) for cubbies and blankets. We are also encouraging parents to send in any child safe recyclables by the end of the month for our recycling unit.

Thank you for your involvement and have a happy April!

*Ms. Jaya and Mr. Dan's Sharks Class 5-year-olds*

The sharks will take advantage of the weather since they have missed lots of outdoor time this winter.

Ms. Jaya and Mr. Dan try their best to help develop children's reading skills by reading books twice a day, helping them write journals, writing down what they say about drawings and also

encouraging them to read as much as they can. We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by making our own books; the children are now more familiar with the words: Author, Illustrator, front cover, back cover and spine. They are also capable of matching foods to their food groups.

In April we have some ex-

citing themes to learn about, including: weather, the 5 senses, bugs/insects, earth day/recycling and community workers. We will keep working on our fine motor skills in April. These include zipping our coats and tying our shoes. These are things that they can practice at home with you too!



After reading *The Foot Book*, we saw how our feet are different and the same.