April is National Autism Acceptance Month

Autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder characterized by a range of conditions that can significantly impair behavioral, communication, and social skills. This complex, highly heritable neurological disorder is identified as a "spectrum" disorder because it affects individual differently and to varying degrees. There can be great strengths in some areas and significant weaknesses in others. Autistic individuals also can have unique skills and abilities that can change the world!

Did you know that some of the most famous people in the world have autism or ASD. From world leaders, entrepreneurs and scientists, to musicians and celebrities, many respected and well-known individual have thrived with autism! Names like Albert Einstein, Tim Burton, Satoshi Tajiri, Bill Gates, Michaelangelo, Steven Spielberg & Sir Isaac Newton are familiar – and all are diagnosed or suspected as having ASD!

About one in 36 children have ASD (CDC). Boys are nearly five time more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ASD. Girls are often underdiagnosed with autism and misdiagnosed with other conditions. ASD is more common than childhood cancer, diabetes, or AIDS combined. Early identification, treatment and support matters! Many important outcomes for children's lives are significantly improved with early diagnosis and treatment.

In truth, autism is just a neutral fact about us; it's not necessarily a good or a bad thing. It's just the way our brains are"

~Zoe Gross, director of advocacy at Autistic Self Advocacy Network

- *Read about more famous people with autism here*
- *25 Famous People with Asperger Syndrome video here*

If you have questions about your child's development, reach out to your medical team.