Celebrating Neurodiversity

AMCHP/SPARC Autism Acceptance Month Coffee Talk
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What is Autism?

• A developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges.

• CDC estimates that 1 in 54 children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
  • For the first time, CDC found the same autism prevalence in black and white children
    • Black children identified received evaluations at older ages than white children
    • Black children who are not diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability might not be identified at the same rate as white children

Source: CDC, 2020
What is Neurodiversity?

NT Theory of Mind = Everyone thinks like me, except when shown to be otherwise.

Autistic Theory of Mind = Everyone thinks differently from me -- vastly and mysteriously -- except when shown to be otherwise.
Our Story
Learn the Signs. Act Early. MATERIALS
Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Framework

- Created by the Institute for Human Development at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, a University Center for Excellence in partnership with families.

- Driven by the core belief that “all people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations.”

- The CtLC Family Perspective tools are designed to help individuals and their families articulate their vision of what they want/don’t want, identify and access key supports, and have conversations with their family members and supporters about planning for a good life now and in the future.

https://www.lifecoursetools.com/lifecourse-library/foundational-tools/family-perspective/
How to Support Self-Advocacy

- Presume Competence
- Do not speak for them
- Support your child/youth’s strengths
- Provide Opportunities for your child/youth to make choices
- Teach your child/youth safety skills
- Learn the Let Go!
• CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Materials:  www.cdc.gov/actearly
• Charting the LifeCourse: https://www.lifecoursetools.com
Thank you!!!

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