



AUTISM SUNDAY

Autism Sunday 2012—The International Day of Prayer for Autism & Asperger’s Syndrome- February 11th, 2012

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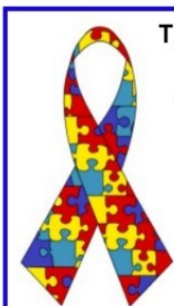
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The Autism Awareness Ribbon

The puzzle pattern of this ribbon reflects the mystery and complexity of autism.
The different colors and shapes represents the diversity of people and families living with this disorder.
The brightness of this ribbon signals hope - hope through research and increasing awareness in people like you.



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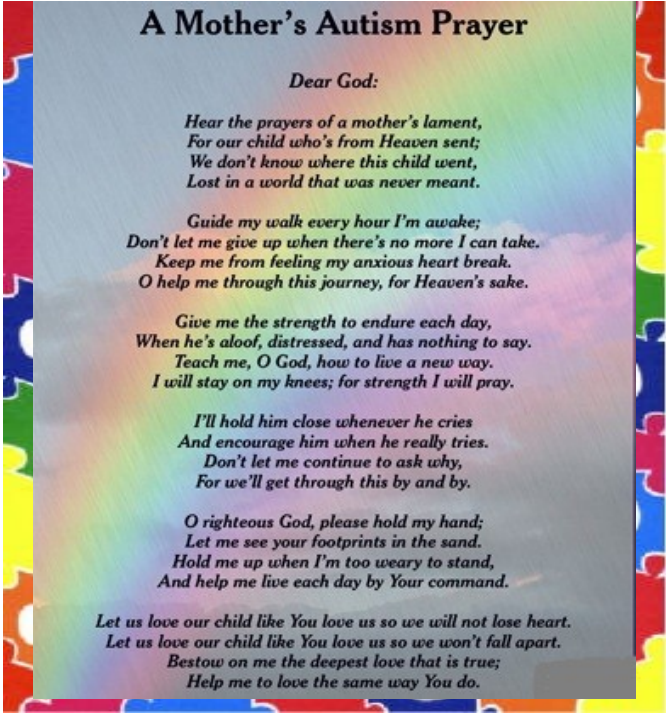
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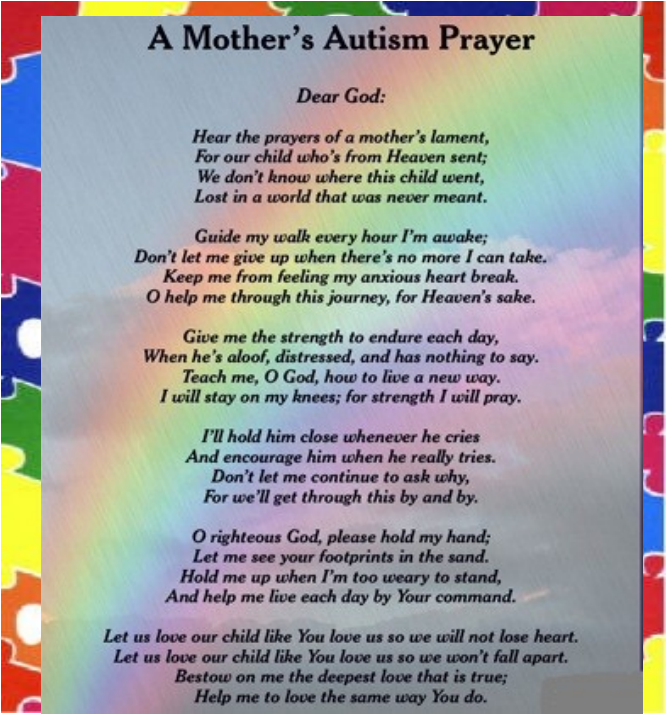
What is Autism? Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological disorder that affects functioning and development of the brain. Autistic individuals may not look any different from you or I, but they see, hear and sense things differently. This can affect their ability to reason, to communicate and to interact with others. Autism is a spectrum disorder, which means there is a wide variation in how it affects individuals. Some have an obsession with certain activities and aversion to certain food textures, or difficulty in making friends. Many others are completely withdrawn “into their own world”, unable to communicate or even say the names of family members. ASD occurs in approximately 1 in 150 children in Canada and 1 in 100 in NL and is on the rise. That means that every 20 minutes there is a child being diagnosed with ASD. It is 4 to 5 times more common in boys. While most forms are usually evident before 3 years of age, one form is not usually apparent until late childhood, Asperger’s Syndrome. The causes are still unknown, and, for now there is no cure. ASD is not a mental disorder, nor is it a form of mental retardation, intellectual capacity may or may not be affected. ASD is not a childhood disorder. Children with ASD become adults with ASD.

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