April is Autism Awareness Month. Happy Autism Awareness Month! To commemorate this, we’ve put together a list of activities that have been modified to be accessible for families of children with autism or other sensory sensitivities. Enjoy!

April 5th & 16th: Acton Discovery Museum “Especially for Me” ASD-Friendly times

April 9th: Open Door Theatre in Acton will perform an Autism/Sensory-friendly performance of Peter Pan

April 15th: Autism-friendly dance performance (Limitless) at the Boston Conservatory Theatre.

For more activities and events, please visit our website at concordsepac.org.

Calling all volunteers. If you are interested in working together with a group of smart, dedicated, and fun parents who are interested in making a difference in special education in the Concord/Concord-Carlisle region while connecting with other parents, we would love to have you on the SEPAC board! Please email us at concordsepac@gmail.com or come to our next meeting on April 8th (details below) to hear what we do.

Did you know? Concord Public Schools utilize a school-based management model. School-based management (SBM) is the decentralization of decision making to the school level. Decisions about instruction, use of resources, the school improvement plan, and accountability for student progress are held responsible at the building level. Each principal is responsible for the decision-making process of their respective school, with the assistance of school advisory committees (made up teachers, parents, and community members) and leadership teams. These decisions include the signing of IEPs, ensuring services, and committing resources for students with IEPs. Come to our next meeting to find out more!

Science Alert: An Examination of the Benefits of Inclusion in a Preschool Setting. In one of the first empirical examinations of the benefits of inclusion (i.e., classes that include both typically developing peers as well as those on IEPs) in early childhood education, a recent study examined social-pragmatic language ability (i.e., social use of language, such as asking for help and initiating conversation) in 670 preschool-age children in 83 early-childhood special education classrooms. Approximately half of the students in each class were on an IEP. Language skills were assessed in the fall and the spring. Results demonstrated that children with disabilities benefitted most from being in a classroom with children who had strong language skills. In addition, children with disabilities who were in classes with peers with poorer language skills showed the least language skill growth. Importantly, typically developing children were less influenced by peer language skills than children on IEPs.


For questions or comments about this newsletter, please email concordsepac@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events. We hope to see you at our future events!

The next SEPAC meeting will be held on Friday, April 8th, from 12:30-2:00 P.M. in the Concord Free Public Library. All SEPAC meetings are open to the public. We encourage parents and caregivers of children on IEPs, receiving accommodations (e.g., 504 plan), or with any medical or special need to attend.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child with an out-of-district placement, please join us for our monthly informal networking group. Our next get-together will be on April 30th, from 9:10-30 A.M., at Main Streets Market & Cafe.

Stay tuned to find out when we will present the results from our recent survey to the School Committee in May. We are excited to share our findings with you! Thank you to all who participated!

CONNECT WITH US

Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Public Schools SEPAC
concordsepac@gmail.com
www.concordsepac.org
@concordsepac

UPCOMING EVENTS

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