

EDIS April Playgroup!!

The April playgroup will be held at EDIS on April 27th from 2:30-4:00. This group is open to children 0-3 years old and their siblings. This is a great opportunity for children and parents alike to socialize and meet others in the community.

Please RSVP by emailing Jeff Mullins at jeff.m.mullins.ctr@mail.mil or calling 727-4029. We are looking forward to seeing you and your child at EDIS for a fun filled playgroup!



(cont. from page 1)

strategizing practical solutions. OTs support positive behavior, focus on social engagement and appropriate interactions in the realm of social play skills.

OTs encourage problem solving through child-centered play and interaction. The child's relationships, meaningful play, eating, self-care and daily living skills are addressed.

The use of siblings and typical peers in interactions has also been found to be effective. A unique sensory experience,

allowing and encouraging children with autism to be along-side groups of children, is becoming a trend at AMC Theaters state-side. Read below to learn about Sensory

Friendly Films and how they were started by a Mother advocating for her daughter with autism.



History of Sensory Theaters:

The concept of Sensory Friendly Films was born in 2007, when Marianne Ross, of Elkridge Maryland took her young daughter, Meaghan, to a matinee (at another theater chain) to see a movie starring one of her most beloved actors. She intentionally picked an early showing figuring there would be fewer people there, but when Meaghan, at that time seven years old, saw her main man on the big screen she began to flap her hands, dance, twirl and jump up and down. Unfortunately a few other movie-goers complained to staff, and the manager asked the Rosses to leave.

Marianne was frustrated, upset, and a bit angry – Meaghan was so happy and the movie-going experience ended up being so negative. It occurred to her that there were probably a lot of people who found themselves in a similar situation – or worse yet, didn't even try to go see a movie for fear of the possible outcomes. The next day Marianne called her local AMC Theatre in Columbia Maryland. She asked if Dan Harris, the manager, would be willing to set up a special screening for children on the autism spectrum. Harris, not only took Marianne up on her suggestions, he made some additional adaptations to make the movie even more sensory-friendly. Marianne spread the word about the upcoming screening through her local [Autism Society Affiliate](#) and amazingly, 300 people showed up and they had to turn some people away because there was no more room in the movie auditorium.

Dan Harris didn't stop there – he held three additional monthly sensory-friendly movies and contacted AMC's headquarters to share the idea. At the corporate office Community-Relations Manager, Cindy Huffstickler, thought the concept was excellent and was surprised no one had thought of it before. Cindy contacted the Autism Society of America and the two companies joined forces and mobilized affiliates and theatres in towns all around the country. Those initial national test screenings proved to be just as successful as that first Maryland screening. And the rest, as they say, is history.

History from: <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/other-ways-to-get-involved/sensory-friendly-films/>