



Sample Letter or E-mail

Dear Friends and Family,



As most of you know, our son, Johnny, was diagnosed with autism two years ago. While it has been difficult, he has come a long way now that he is receiving the appropriate therapy and treatment. We are just thrilled with the progress he has made, but we also know that he has a long road ahead of him.

According to the Center for Disease Control, roughly 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with autism. A child is diagnosed with autism every 20 minutes. We feel for every one of those families because we know just how difficult this diagnosis can be for a child and those who love that child. Our hope is that through raising autism awareness we can generate a greater understanding of autism in our community so that individuals with autism will be diagnosed early and receive the help that they need.

The Autism Society of Berks County has been a source of support for our family. We attend their meetings and have really learned a lot. We also attend their family events. Because of the anxiety that Johnny has in unfamiliar or crowded places, it makes it almost impossible to do simple things that other families do together and take for granted. Over the last few years, we were able to do things like go to a private theater rental at the movies, go roller skating, and go on a hayride. We did these things with the other families from ASA Berks at their planned outings. It was great practice and now we've even gone to the movies on our own and Johnny did very well! This is something that others would think is no big deal, but it meant the world to us!

We will be forming a team to walk in honor of Johnny at their eighth annual Walk for Autism Awareness on Sunday, Sept. 11th and we would like to invite you to join us! There will be lunch, entertainment, a raffle, and prizes for those who raise the most money. Just let us know that you want to join our team, then start collecting pledges. You can register and turn the pledge money in the day of the Walk. If you can't join us on Sept. 11th, please consider making a donation that we can turn in with our other pledges. Any amount that you can give would be greatly appreciated!

With your help, the Autism Society of Berks will continue to provide information and support for individuals within the autism spectrum, their families, and professionals through community awareness, education, and research related to autism.

Sincerely,
Jane, Joe, and Johnny

P.S. If you are able to sponsor us, please mail your check to us by Sept. 2nd. Checks should be made out to "Autism Society of Berks". Thank you very much! It is nice to know how loved and supported Johnny is by all of you.