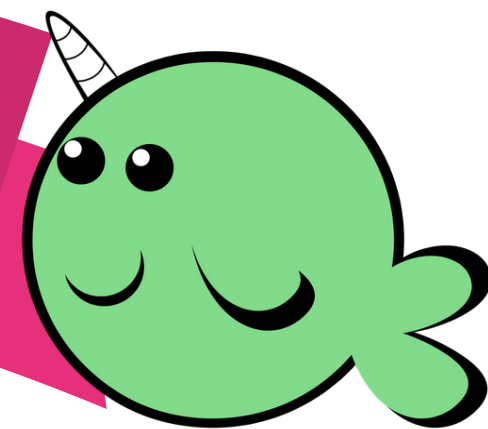


NEURODIVERGENT NARWHALS PRESENT:



## BEHAVIOR PLAN FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS OF AUTISTIC KIDS:

\*I promise to never use my child's most vulnerable moments for sympathy or to "raise awareness". I recognize that I am my child's safety net against an often hostile world. When I feel like sharing, I will ask myself if this is something that I would want others to share about me.

\*I will never blame autism when I have a hard time parenting my child. Parenting is stressful at times, but rewarding as well. This is true for ANY child and I will recognize this.

\*I will prioritize the voices of Autistic people over the "experts" as I recognize that Autistic people are the ultimate experts on their own lives.

\*I will throw out the myth of a "developmental window" and acknowledge that my child will grow and learn in their own time, in their own way with my love, guidance and nurturing.

\*I will never apologize for my child being openly Autistic.

\*I will look at every therapy offered to my child with a critical eye. I will ask myself what is the desired outcome? Is it supportive or is it attempting to change my child's neurology? I will never force my child into therapies that vow indistinguishability or that seek to "fix" or promise a non-Autistic version of my child.

\*I will embrace the neurodiversity paradigm and celebrate my child as a beautiful part of the wide and diverse spectrum of humanity.

\*I will learn about the social model of disability and confront ableism when I see it. I will learn about the disability and autistic rights movements and use my privilege to further the cause.

\*I will learn about Autistic culture and find Autistic friends, not just for my child but for me as well. I will promote acceptance and lead by my example.

\*I will learn about identity first language and show my child that I am proud of their Autistic identity.

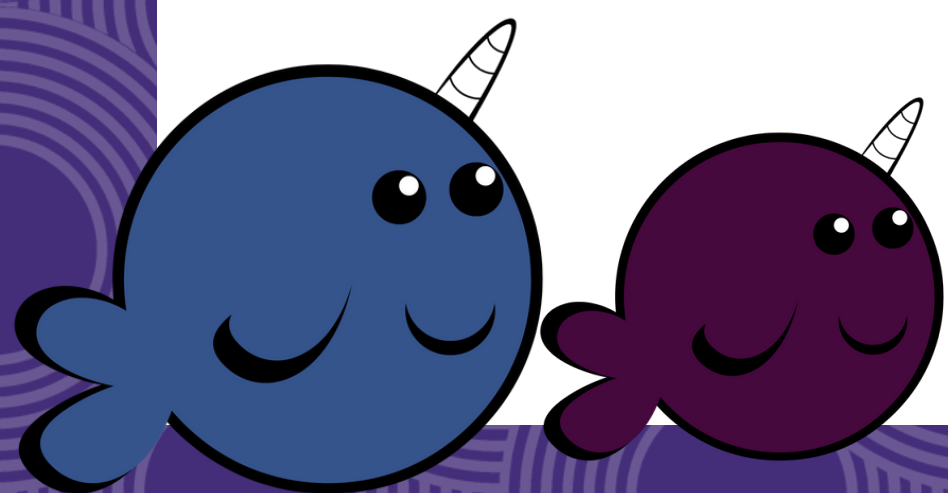
\*I will NEVER say that I love my child but not their autism. I will recognize that autism is an integral part of who they are and shapes how they view, process and experience this world. I will love every part of my child. I will never teach them shame or internalized ableism.

\*I will presume that my child is competent and understands more than may be apparent.

\*I understand that communication is more than speech and I will support my child's communication in any form.

\*I will never fight autism, but I sure as hell will fight for their right to be exactly who they are in this world.

\*I will recognize that I am only human and I will make mistakes along the way. I will forgive myself and do better.



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