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Daily News

Autism-friendly program now offered at the B&O Museum

By: Central Penn Parent
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The B&O Railroad Museum has announced this week that it is now an autism-friendly museum, offering a series of Sensory Friendly Days for its guests with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and sensory processing

differences. The first of these Sensory Friendly Days is scheduled for Sunday, March 24. The Museum will open early that morning at 10 a.m. to accommodate guests who may need smaller crowds or specialized activities with less sound and light stimuli.
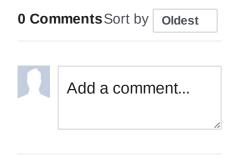
B&O personnel completed their sensory awareness training through the program's sponsor, the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake. Certified museum staff will wear "Autism Friendly" lapel pins to make guests aware that they are in an environment that is respectful of their sensory needs.

Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake president and program trainer Debbie Page says that hen her son was first diagnosed with autism, the B&O Railroad Museum and its Day Out With Thomas the Tank Engine event gave him an outlet to express his joy and excitement, because trains were his "passion."

Now ASD guests of the B&O Railroad Museum have the tools, quiet rooms and sensory signage they need to explore the museum. Additionally ASD guests may use sensory kits stationed throughout the Museum's campus that will provide them with feeling charts, break timers, fidgets, stress balls, and noise canceling headphones.

Guests who pre-register with Museum Educator Rebecca Funk will also receive a specialized sensory story that will help them prepare for their Sensory Friendly Day visit on Sunday, March 24. Please RSVP to Rebecca Funk at funk@borail.org.

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