

## Galaxy Orangeville holds sensory screening

In partnership with Autism Ontario, Cineplex Theatres, including the Galaxy Cinema in Orangeville will hold a sensory screening this weekend, Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m.

The movie morning is funded by Autism Ontario's Potential Programme which creates unique opportunities for families of children on the autism spectrum.

Autism Ontario has 24 Chapters across the province providing families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with information and a voice with the government. The organization helps individuals on the spectrum and their families by advocating on their behalf, providing services & programs, and raising awareness.

In Canada, autism prevalence rates are 1 in 94, says Jennifer Dent, Community Event Coordinator for the Central West Region of Autism Ontario. In the USA, the Centres for Disease Control are now saying that 1 in 68 is affected. Early intervention is important to the development of all children on the autism spectrum. Recognizing the early signs of ASD and early intervention based on those signs is important as it can make the effects of ASD less severe.

Unfortunately, adds Dent, there are long wait times for a diagnosis, in some places in Ontario the wait can be between two and four years.

Dent says families of people with ASD often limit their participation in social activities, or choose not to participate at all because their community lacks the kind of supportive environment that would enable them to enjoy experiences that other families find easier to access.

The events Autism Ontario offers focus on the learning needs of children with ASD, and offers additional supports to allow parents to support their own children at public events, she says.

This Saturday, Kung Fu Panda 3 in 2D will be screening at Galaxy Orangeville, with exclusive use of the theatre for people with autism and their families. The sound will be adjusted and there will be no commercials or trailers.

Creating sensory-friendly environments for families living with autism spectrum disorder is part of Cineplex's effort to always focus on providing an exceptional guest experience, says Adam Clark, the General Manager of Galaxy Orangeville. As Canada's leading theatre operator, we identified a group for whom the traditional experience created some challenges, and it was important to us that we addressed those concerns.

Autism Ontario will have exclusive use of the theatre at Galaxy Orangeville, 85 5th Avenue, this Saturday, February 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This event is open to children with ASD, their siblings and caregivers only. Spaces are limited and caregivers must remain present. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register visit [www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-family-movie-morning-kung-fu-panda-3-2d-orangeville-registration-19968288689?aff=ebrowse](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-family-movie-morning-kung-fu-panda-3-2d-orangeville-registration-19968288689?aff=ebrowse)

By Marni Walsh