



## Sesame Place San Diego Celebrates Autism Acceptance Month

- *Sesame Place San Diego is the first theme park in San Diego to receive the distinction of being a Certified Autism Center (CAC) by IBCCES*
- *During the month of April, guests can meet and take photos with Julia, a four-year-old autistic Sesame Street friend*
- *Now through Sunday, April 30, guests can receive a free Sesame Street storybook featuring Julia*
- *Hundreds of Sesame Place employees are trained on sensory, environment, and emotional awareness*
- *On-site accommodations include sensory guides, designated quiet rooms, and low-sensory areas*
- *Pre-visit planning resources and sensory guides are available on the Sesame Place website for guests with cognitive disabilities and other special needs*

**SAN DIEGO, CA (April 21, 2023)** – Sesame Place® San Diego, the first theme park on the West Coast based entirely on the award-winning show *Sesame Street*® and the first theme park in San Diego to be designated as a Certified Autism Center, is celebrating Autism Acceptance Month throughout April with limited-time giveaways.

### Autism Acceptance Month at Sesame Place

Throughout the month of April, guests can receive a FREE *Sesame Street* storybook dedicated to showing that all children – autistic and neurotypical alike – are amazing in their own ways. The titles include: *A Julia Storybook* and *A Little Bit Different, A Little Bit the Same*. Storybooks will be distributed during meet and greets with Julia located at Photos with Elmo and Friends and will be available on operating days through Sunday, April 30, or while supplies last.

In addition, Julia will be available for Meet & Greets throughout April. Julia is a four-year-old autistic Muppet from *Sesame Street* and the face of Sesame Workshop's *Sesame Street and Autism: Seeing Amazing in All Children* initiative. As part of the initiative, new resources were released that center around belonging and artistic expression, including two new videos featuring Julia and her *Sesame Street* friends: [Princess Paint A Lot](#) and [Julia is Needed](#), a new storybook celebrating teamwork and belonging called [Julia and the Super-Sunny Celebration](#), and three new printable pages to encourage children's creativity by prompting them to create a self-portrait and inserting themselves into different scenes.

## **Autism Acceptance and Accessibility All Year**

Sesame Place partnered with the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) to earn the distinction of becoming the first theme park in San Diego to be designated as a Certified Autism Center (CAC).

The certification requires ongoing, specialized training for ambassadors, focusing on sensory awareness, motor skills, program development, communication, and emotional awareness. This allows the park to be better equipped to serve autistic and differently abled individuals, creating enjoyable and memorable experiences for all guests.

As a CAC, the park offers a variety of services and facilities for autistic and differently abled guests. This includes robust pre-planning resources online, sensory guides developed by IBCCES, and the Ride Accessibility Program. Guests in need of quiet time and relief from sensory stimulation can utilize the park's quiet rooms and complimentary noise-canceling headphones provided for single-day use. Guests can find IBCCES' sensory guides, information about the Ride Accessibility Program, and other resources at <https://sesameplace.com/san-diego/help/autism-resources/>.

## **Elmo's Springtacular**

Saturdays and Sundays now through May 21, guests can participate in self-led activities during [Sesame Place's ALL-NEW Elmo's Springtacular](#). In addition to daily park offerings, the park will host a variety of springtime crafts and planting stations that will encourage creativity and a love of nature. Guests can enjoy a free Spring Scavenger Hunt and go on a fun-filled search to find all the spring surprises hidden around the park and turn in their free scavenger hunt activity sheet for a special prize upon completion at Guest Services. In addition, park visitors can have fun expressing their creativity and show off their artistry by decorating the sidewalks of Sesame Place with complimentary chalk. For full details on the event visit <https://sesameplace.com/san-diego/events/elmos-springtacular/>.

## **Best Way to Play!**

The best way to play all year long with unbeatable benefits is with a 2023 Sesame Place Season Pass for a very low-price of \$144 or \$48 per month for only three months. Season Pass Members can enjoy unlimited access to the park with the added benefits of free parking, free friend tickets, discounts on cabanas, Abby's Magic Queue, and Stroller Rentals, exclusive monthly rewards of free friend tickets, and more. Perks vary based on the type of Season Pass purchased. Guests can purchase a 2023 Season Pass and enjoy unlimited visits this year!! For double the fun all year long, add a SeaWorld Annual Pass for only \$96 or \$8 a month, and enjoy both parks every and any day of the year.

Sesame Place San Diego is located at 2052 Entertainment Circle in Chula Vista. For more information and to purchase tickets and Season Passes visit [SesamePlaceSanDiego.com](https://SesamePlaceSanDiego.com). For the most recent updates, fans can follow [Sesame Place San Diego](#) on Facebook and [@SesamePlaceCa](#) on Instagram.

## **About Sesame Place San Diego**

Sesame Place San Diego is the only theme park on the West Coast based entirely on the award-winning show, Sesame Street. Conveniently located just 20 minutes from San Diego and 2.5 hours from Los Angeles, this 17-acre theme park is perfect for families with kids of all ages and has been designated as a Certified Autism Center. The new theme park features 18 Sesame Street-themed rides and exciting water attractions, a family-friendly rollercoaster and a 500,000-gallon wave pool – one of the largest in Southern California. The park also features an engaging musical play area, an interactive Sesame Street Neighborhood complete with the iconic 123 Stoop, daily live character shows, an award-winning parade, one-of-a-kind photo opportunities and of course, everyone's favorite furry friends. Celebrate family-friendly events all year long at Sesame Place, including Elmo's Eggstravaganza, Elmo's Springtacular, Sesame Summer Splash, The Count's Halloween Spooktacular, and A Very Furry Christmas.

### **Media Contacts**

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