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Autism Live “Festival of Toys” Brings Holiday Cheer to Families Affected by Autism

Now through Dec. 18, the web show is featuring educational apps, toys and other giveaways ideal for children with autism with its “Festival of Toys” contest.

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 5, 2014) – Autism Live today announced its “Festival of Toys” holiday contest where families of children with autism can win educational apps and toys through Dec. 18. The contest was started by the host, Shannon Penrod, who has an 11-year-old son with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autism Live is a free online web show that provides resources to parents, teachers and practitioners working with individuals with ASD. It airs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon PST at www.autism-live.com. Parents can watch to see Penrod review favorite toys and explain how to use them in ways that help their children, such as Legos(T), PlasmaCars, Orbeez and more. Families who would like to enter to win should first sign up for the Autism Live newsletter at www.autism-live.com/join-our-email-list.aspx and then write to s.penrod@autism-live.com to describe what toy they would like to win and why. Winners will be chosen at random from properly submitted entries.

Choosing a great toy for a child is every parent and grandparent’s holiday wish, but when the child is on the autism spectrum the stakes can be even higher. Parents want to invest in toys that will put a smile on their children’s faces, but will also help them to gain crucial skills that will facilitate learning and maintaining quality friendships.

“Toys have the ability to be transformative for kids on the spectrum. The key is finding the right toy for the right child,” said Shannon Penrod, host of Autism Live. This holiday season, during the annual “Festival of Toys,” Autism Live is showcasing toys that have that something special for children with autism. “We show toys our kids love and talk about why they are so great for our kids,” said Penrod.

Apps featured include award winning Reader Bee from Learning Circle Kids. Using the honeycomb reading method a child will quickly find themselves spelling and reading. This app is a perfect example of a great educational find that makes learning fun for all kids and the cost is only \$1.99. "It's an app that any parent can feel good about giving their child," said Penrod.

Another app Penrod recommends for children with autism is Brain Parade's See.Touch.Learn. It's a great app that capitalizes on learning visually, which for some kids is beneficial. "It's educational, visually beautiful and it's expandable as the child grows," adds Penrod.

About Autism Live

Autism Live is a free interactive web show providing support, resources, information, facts, entertainment, and inspiration to parents, teachers, and practitioners working with individuals on the autism spectrum. Viewers are encouraged to participate by asking questions of experts, offering suggestions for upcoming topics, and sharing their children's progress. For more information, visit www.autism-live.com. Free podcasts of the show are available at www.youtube.com/autismlive as well as on iTunes and on Roku.

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