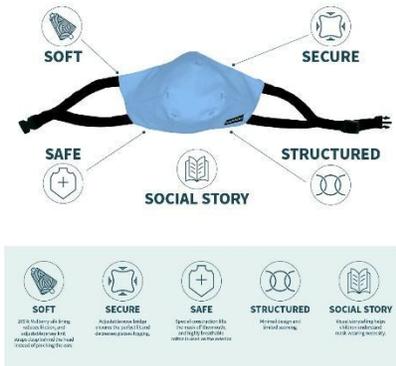


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Headline:

ESSC Partners with Rafi Nova to Offer Mask Designed With Sensory Sensitivities in Mind

Tagline:

Input from Autism Services associates played important role in mask development.

Body:

ESSC teamed up with socially-conscious lifestyle brand Rafi Nova to develop a [Sensory-Friendly Mask](#) to benefit children and adults with sensory sensitivities or anyone who finds wearing a conventional mask uncomfortable.

Rafi Nova, partnered with our Development Team, and consulted with more than a dozen ESSC therapists and other licensed and certified staff including **J.J. Johnston** Director, Behavioral Provider Network and **Monique Taylor**, Director of Clinical Standards, Occupational Therapy, and ESSC participants as well as their families and other community members.

“Wearing a face covering can be difficult for individuals with autism and other sensory processing challenges or disabilities,” explains Monique. “A mask introduces new stimuli – fabric sensation, pressure from a tight elastic band, heat, and moisture – which can negatively impact people with sensory sensitivities.”

Over a three-month period, multiple prototypes were tested with our participants and the design was revised to achieve a maximally beneficial mask—soft, structured, safe, secure—that provides both comfort and function.

“There’s little in the marketplace to accommodate people with sensory sensitivities,” says **Paula Pompa-Craven**, Chief Clinical Officer. “This soft mask is an outstanding option not only for the autism community, but for all children and adults who I believe will find it uniquely comfortable.”

The Sensory-Friendly Masks are available in both child and adult sizes. A story card explaining the importance of wearing a mask was developed by our ESSC associates and is included with each children’s mask.

Rafi Nova is donating 25% of the proceeds from the Sensory-Friendly Masks to ESSC when the code **ESSC** is used at check-out.

We appreciate the collaboration and partnership with Rafi Nova on this project to create safer, more inclusive masks for all. For more information, visit [Rafi Nova's website](#) and feel free to share the link with friends and family.