

Friends!

Talk to me!

I may not understand everything, but I can learn.

Play with me! I may not understand the rules, but I can learn.

See what I can do, not what I cannot do!

Listen to me!

I may not use words, but I can learn.

Be my friend!

I may not share my feelings, but I can learn.

Learn with me!

We may learn things differently, but we can learn together!

Be patient with me!

I may take longer to learn, but I am learning!

You are my friend!

We will learn together!

~ author unknown



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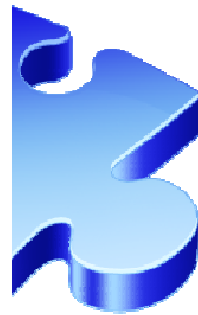
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Autism

Fact Sheet:

Just for Kids!



All I ask is you try to

Understand my disability!

Tolerate my differences!

I am a kid just like you!

See the world through my eyes.

Make a difference in my world!

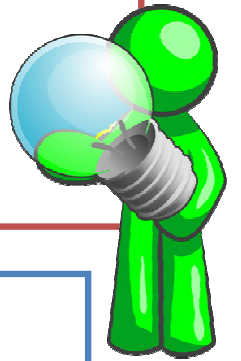


What are people with autism like when they grow up?

Kids with autism can learn to do all sorts of things when they grow up. They might:

- have a job at a grocery store.
- be an artist.
- work on a computer.
- own a business.

Even though autism never goes away, many people with autism learn to make friends, do a job and have a very happy life.



How should I act around someone who has autism?

- Just remember people with autism aren't that much different from you.
- Just like you, they can do some things better than others.
- Just like you, they have lots of different feelings.
- Just like you, they might feel happy, sad, excited, frustrated, proud, lonely, or loving.
- It is important to know that even if someone with autism acts different from you or your friends, they still have feelings and they care about other people.
- You should always try to be a caring person too!
- Just be yourself when you're with someone who has autism. You may even make a new friend!

Do children with autism go to school?

Yes, children with autism go to school to learn just like you!

- They could be in your class or may be in a class where they have special help learning.
- Like you and your friends, kids with autism have things they do well and things they need extra help with.
- Different kids need different kinds of help!
- Learning how to communicate is an important first step! Spoken language can be hard to learn for kids with autism.
- They may learn how to communicate by pointing, writing, pictures, sign language or have a special device which speaks for them when they touch the pictures or words.
- Having a way to communicate makes learning other things easier, and eventually, many kids with autism learn to talk.

Kids with autism need help learning social skills.

- How to greet people.
- How to wait their turn.
- How to follow directions.

Some kids need special help with living skills.

- How to brush their teeth.
- How to tie their shoes.
- How to make a bed.

Other kids with autism need help learning to control their behavior.

- How to sit still.
- How to control their temper.



True or False?

1. ___ You CANNOT catch autism from somebody.
2. ___ There is no cure for autism.
3. ___ People who are born with autism will one day outgrow it.
4. ___ People with autism can get jobs.
5. ___ People with autism do NOT need friends.
6. ___ People with autism need others to be patient with them.
7. ___ All people with autism are alike.
8. ___ People with autism cannot learn.
9. ___ People with autism need help learning social skills.
10. ___ Just like you, people with autism do some things better.



Helping Friends with Autism

Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank at bottom of the page.

- Play with me. Show me how to _____ games.
- Use short sentences. Too many _____ can be confusing. Give me _____ to think about the answer. Drawing _____ or _____ things down may make it easier for me to understand.
- I am not ignoring you; sometimes I _____ know how to respond.
- I may do things that seem different when I am _____ or _____.

play writing excited don't
unhappy pictures time words

What is Autism?

Imagine how hard it would be if you were trying to talk to a friend and they couldn't understand what you were saying.

When a person has autism, it means something in their brain is different from other kids' brains.

This makes it hard for kids with autism to communicate with others.

- It's difficult for some kids with autism to link words with their meanings.
- Kids with autism sometimes have trouble understanding what other people are saying.

Imagine your teacher talking in a different language; it would be hard to learn because you couldn't understand the words.

- Some kids with autism have a hard time using words to say what they need.
- Some kids with autism might say the same word or sentence over and over.



What causes autism?

- Doctors, scientists and parents are not sure. They are still searching for the cause.

Autism isn't contagious, which means you can't catch it from someone who has it.

Kids with autism sometimes behave differently.

- They may not react to things going on around them in ways you or your friends might.
- Some kids with autism have trouble connecting a person's gestures with the person's feelings.
- Quiet sounds may be loud and distracting to a kid with autism.
- A sudden noise could be terrifying. The sound of a fire alarm could be very painful to some kids with autism.



- A person's touch might set off a wave of strong sensations.
- Some kids with autism flap their hands when they get excited.
- Some kids with autism may say certain words over and over.
- Some kids may play only with one toy or have one thing they talk about over and over.
- Changes in routines can be very hard for some kids with autism.
- Because they struggle to understand words or gestures and changes, some kids with autism tend to keep to themselves.
- Some kids with autism may be happy, but all of a sudden they become sad or mad. It might be because they can't tell people what they need or want.

Imagine how a chill gives you the shivers. For some kids with autism a touch might feel like someone hit them hard.

Imagine playing a game and your friend makes up new rules. This is how some kids with autism feel when things are changed. They don't understand why things are not the same.