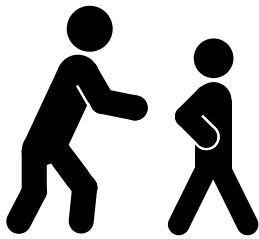


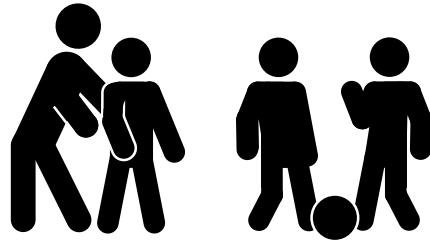
Autism is...

a complex life-long disability which affects a person's social and communication skills. It is a spectrum disorder occurring in varying degrees of severity and affects more than 500,000 people in the UK today. Not all people with autism will need life-long support but the first step towards progress is recognition of the condition.

These pin people illustrate some ways in which autism is displayed.



Displays indifference



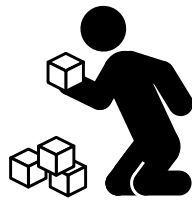
Joins in only if adult insists and assists



One-sided interaction



Indicates needs by using an adult's hand



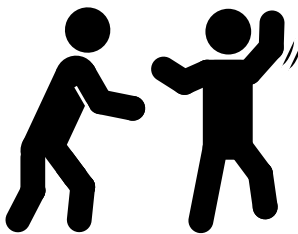
Lack of creative, pretend play



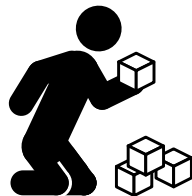
Handles or spins objects



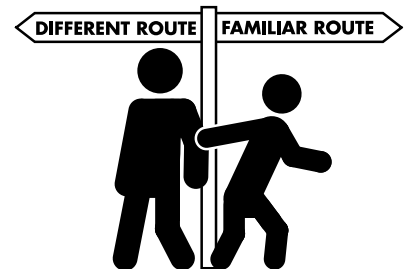
Echolalic – copies words like parrot



Does not play with other children



Talks incessantly about only one topic



Variety is not the spice of life



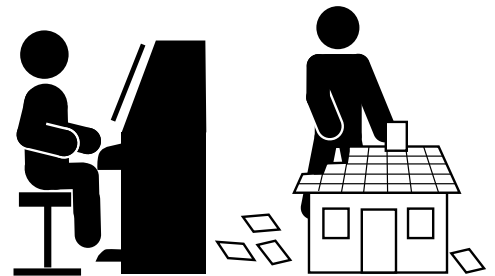
No eye contact



Bizarre behaviour



Inappropriate laughing or giggling



But some can do some things very well, very quickly but not tasks involving social understanding

Early diagnosis is essential if people with autism are to achieve full potential. It is only when their disability is understood that they can be helped to maximise skills and minimise problems.

For more information contact:

The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG Tel 020 7833 2299

Graphic design based on illustrations used by Prof J Rendle-Short, Australia and National Society for Autistic Children, USA.

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