

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* of the ways in which autism is displayed.

Displays indifference

Joins in only if adult insists and assists

One-sided interaction

Indicated needs by using an adult's hand

Does not play with other children

Talks incessantly about only one topic

Echolalic – copies words like parrot

Bizarre behaviour

Inappropriate laughing or giggling

Handles or spins objects

No eye contact

Variety is not the spice of life

Lack of creative, pretend play

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

- Difficulty with social relationships
- Difficulty with verbal communication
- Difficulty with non-verbal communication
- Difficulty in the development of play and imagination
- Resistance to change in routine

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:

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