



Let's Talk Autism

YMCA Autism Awareness

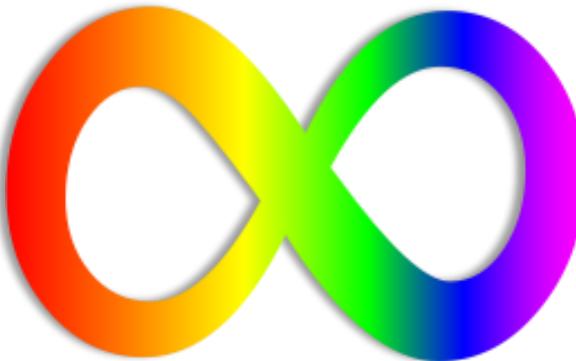
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Awesome Words

**“I don’t suffer from
Asperger Syndrome I
embrace it.”**

-Dan Aykroyd





What is Autism

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

What is Autism is **NOT**

- A Disease
- An Illness
- A childhood condition
- The end of the World for you or your child
- Something the Parents Did
- The Child's Fault
- Something to Fix

Other things Autism Is

- Unique to Your Child
- Neurodevelopmental Difference
- Lifelong
- Part of Neurodivergence
- Genetic
- Okay!





Autism At home

Autism can manifest in a number of different ways. Some ways you may notice as a parent and some ways you may not.



Things you May Notice

- Difficulty Acquiring Language
- Repetitive Behaviors
- Restricted Interests
- Limited Expression

Supporting Your Child with Autism at Home

- Create a Routine (Hygiene, Visual Aids, Cool Down)
- Learn About their Habits and Interests
- Create Opportunities for Socialization
- Destigmatize the Diagnosis
- Lead with Love

Awesome Words

**"The world needs all
kinds of minds." -
Temple Grandin**



Autism At School



Autism can manifest differently in a school environment than in a home environment. Yet schools are a great place for students with Autism to learn the skills to really be empowered.



Difference Between the School and Home

- More Children
- Unfamiliar Environment
- Structured Learning Experiences
- Diverse Food
- Communication Requirements

Benefits of Schools for Children with Autism

- Learning Experts
- Opportunities to socialize
- Exposure to the World
- Disability Professionals

Awesome Words

**Don't give up on your dream
stay encouraged, believe in
yourself, and work hard to do
what you love to do.**

- Armani Williams



Questions/Answers

