

Autism

Autism is a form of being Neuro-Divergent (thinking and experiencing things in a different way from others) due to differences within the brain. Autistic children have strengths and difficulties just like any other child.



When we understand the preferences, learning styles, sensory needs and styles of communication for an Autistic child, we can provide them with the right support. Being inclusive of Autistic children means adapting the environment, your teaching and interaction styles to help them to be their best selves not trying to change their behaviour and make them hide their needs. Some areas of development that Autistic children might show differences in are:

- ▶ Social interaction and verbal communication: repeating certain words or phrases (echolalia,) talking intensely about topics of interest, delays in understanding and using spoken language, taking words literally, being over familiar or indifferent with other people, unsure of making conversation.
- ▶ Repetitive movements (stimming) and play: prefers ordered play or copying other's play, prefers time on their own, being repetitive in what they do or intense interest in something, making body movements repetitively.
- ▶ Sensory responses: heightened or lowered responses to touch, taste, light, noise, temperature, sight and/or pain.

If you want advice about your child's development, please get in contact with your local NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service or talk to their school/nursery setting/Health Visitor.

