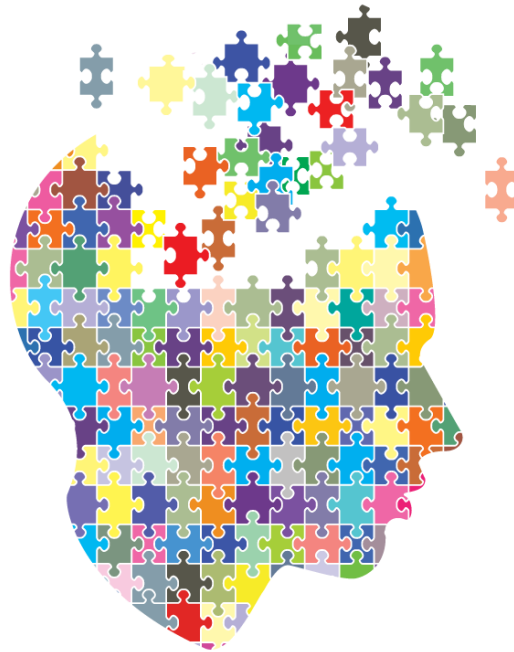


What is Autism?

Some children have Autism.

We can say that they are Autistic, on the Autism Spectrum, or have Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This story talks about Autism.



Around 700,000 people in the United Kingdom have Autism.

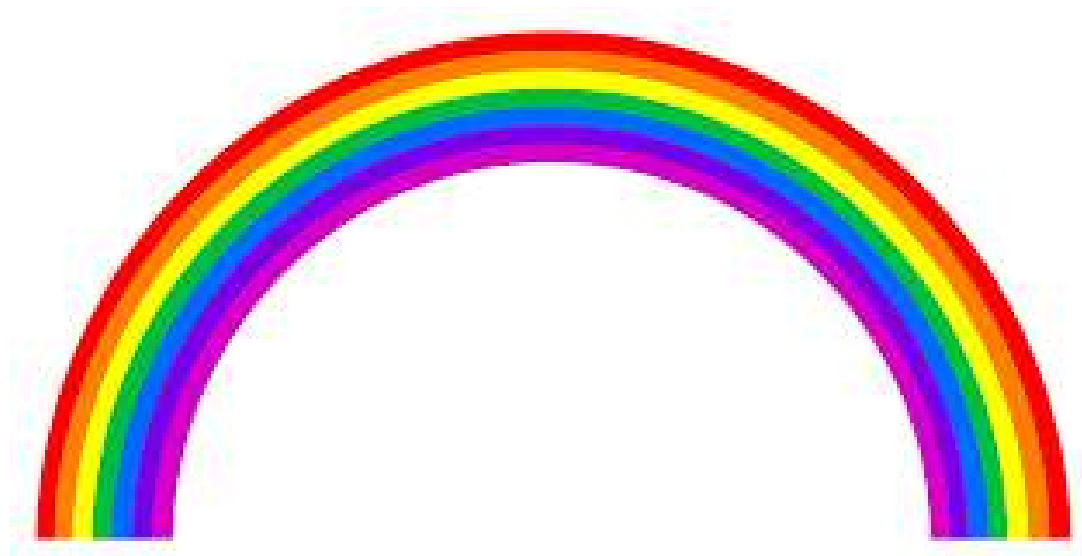
That's more than 1 person in every 100 people.



Every Autistic child is different.

The word 'spectrum' means rainbow – rainbows are made of many different colours.

We use the words Autism Spectrum to show that every Autistic child is different, like all the colours on the rainbow.



Autistic children's brains work differently.

This means that they think differently and find some things more difficult.

It also means they are good at other things.



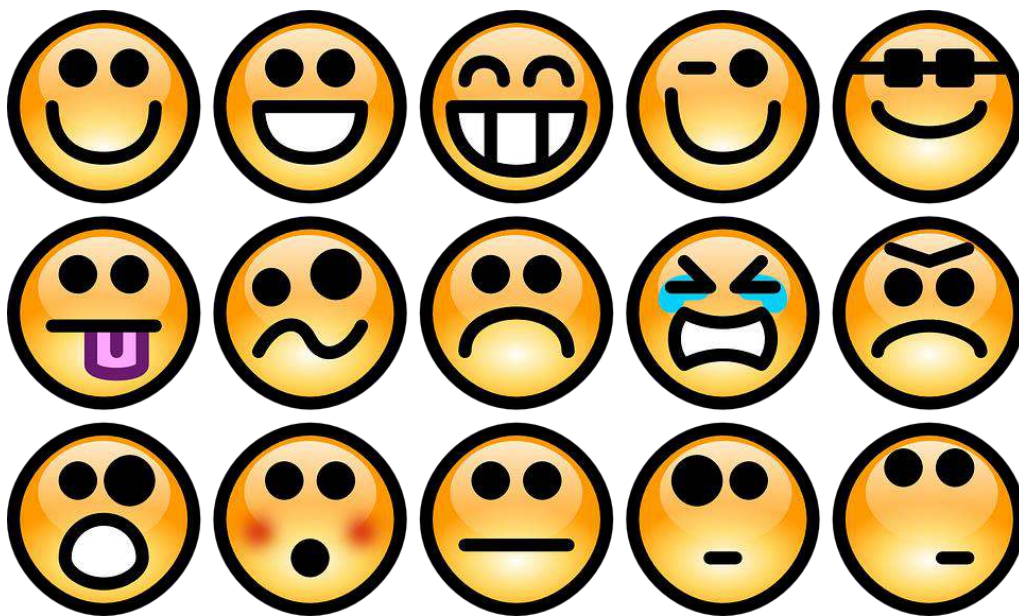
Autism is part of who that person is, so this will not change when they get older.

Autistic people can learn lots of skills, even when they find something difficult.



Autistic children might find it hard to understand how other people are feeling.

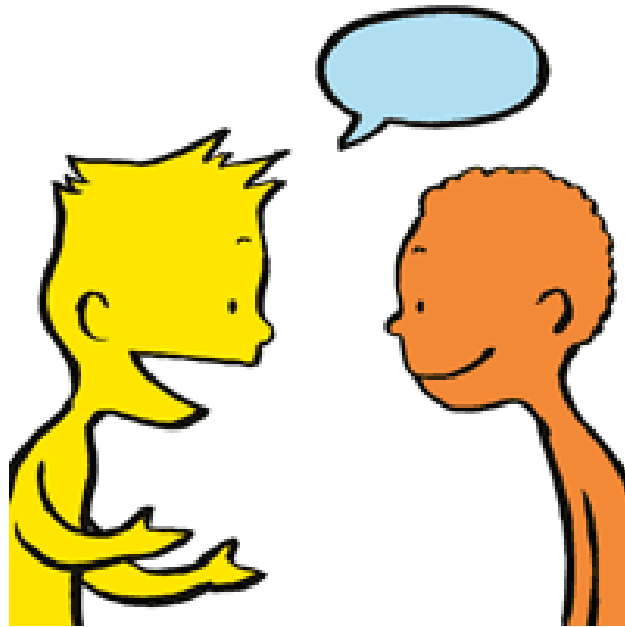
Sometimes a child with Autism might not notice that another person is upset.



Autistic children might forget to take turns when talking to other people.

They need to remember to ask questions and listen to others.

When we listen to others, we can learn more about them.



Autistic children might find it difficult to make friends with other children.

They might find adults easier to understand.

They can learn skills to understand other people better, and make it easier to make friends.



Autistic children are also good at lots of things.

They are good at noticing details that other children might not see.

Thinking differently can be really useful sometimes!



Autistic children might have very strong senses.

This means they might notice noises and how things feel, more than other children.

This can be confusing sometimes.



Autistic children often have a special interest in something.

They usually know lots about their special interest.

Autistic children are often very good at learning facts.



Many Autistic children find change and new things worrying.

Adults can help with this, by explaining what is happening.

Pictures and timetables are helpful for this.



Lots of people are Autistic.

This means that they think in a different way.

They might need more help to learn how to understand other people.

Autistic people are also good at many things.

