

Your classmates on the autism spectrum

What you can do



People on the autism spectrum see, hear and feel the world differently.

Autism is lifelong developmental condition that means kids and adults on the autism spectrum see the world differently.

It can affect how they think, feel, act and experience the world. It is a lifelong disability that starts when they are born and stays with them their entire life.

Every Autistic person is different to every other Autistic person. This is why autism is described as a 'spectrum'.

You may know someone at school that is on the autism spectrum. here are some behaviours you might observe along with some simple things you can do.



Can find reading social cues such as facial expressions, gestures and body language challenging.

Be clear in your words and actions.



Have the same feelings and emotions as non-autistic people.

Show kindness and respect.



May act and speak differently to you.

Focus on 'what' is being said, not 'how' it's said.



May be highly sensitive to their surroundings and may react differently to things like bright light, noise or smell.

Be understanding if your classmate gets upset, excited or needs to move away quickly.



May take what you say literally and have trouble 'reading between the lines'.

Be clear in what you say.



Are often very knowledgeable and focused on a particular subject or passion.

Focus on your classmate's abilities, interests and unique take on the world. You may learn some really interesting things!



Can sometimes appear blunt, honest and to the point.

Understand it's a trait of autism.

To learn more go to:

autismspectrum.org.au/WAUD