

# Autism: Myths and Facts



The 'Myths' are direct quotes from family members.

The 'Facts' are based on science and medical research.



## Myth

## Fact

Autism is a curse or punishment

Autism is not caused by a curse. Autism is a difference in a young person's brain. People who are autistic can progress and develop with support and help.

Autism is caused by vaccinations

Research studies have found no link between autism and vaccinations. Articles claiming there is a link have been proven wrong.

Autism is the fault of the mother or father

People are autistic due to multiple factors including genes and the environment, not because a parent has done something wrong.

Autism is an epidemic

Autism is not an epidemic, however the number of people being diagnosed as autistic is increasing. Parents and doctors are more aware of autism and have more access to assessments for autism.

Autism is caused by too much technology such as phones and computers

There is no evidence that there is a link between technology and autism. Autistic people were part of our communities before technology existed.

Go to [positivepartnerships.com.au](https://positivepartnerships.com.au)

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Autism is caused by a lack of Vitamin C or D

There is no link between a lack of vitamins and autism. If you are worried your child needs more vitamin c or d, talk to your doctor.

Autistic people don't want friends

Autistic people may have friendships that look different to people who are not autistic.

Autistic people all have very low intelligence (IQ)

The intellectual ability of autistic people varies as does their other abilities. This is the same for people who are not autistic.

All autistic people have special skills

Everyone has strengths and support needs, including autistic people and those who are not autistic.

Autism affects only a certain 'class' of people

Autism is diagnosed in people from all parts of society and across all cultures and communities.

