

# Autism: Myths and facts

The quotes under 'Myths' are direct quotes from family members.  
The 'Facts' column is based on science and medical research.

Myths	Facts
"Autism is a curse"	A curse cannot be changed but children with autism can be helped
"Autism is your fault"	Parents do not cause their child's autism
"Autism is a disease that can be cured"	Autism is a developmental condition that can improve with education and therapy
"Autism is an epidemic"	Autism is personal and individual
"Autism is contagious"	No one can 'catch' autism
"Autism is punishment for your sins"	Punishment applies to a person who is responsible; not to an innocent baby
"Autism means 'mentally retarded'"	Some children with autism have an intellectual disability, some are average and some are smarter than other people in the community
"Autism is caused by too much TV"	Autism happens to children even if they don't watch TV at all
"Autism is caused by vaccinations"	Research studies have found no link between autism and vaccines
"Autism affects only a certain class of people"	Autism may be seen in people of all levels of income and across all cultures
"Autism is the fault of the mother"	Autism is related to the genes of a child which come from both the mother and father

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

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