



Fact Sheet



What is Autism?

Autism is a difference in a person's development that affects how they learn and interact with others and their surroundings.



Autistic people may have some similarities but they are all different to each other, which is why it is called the 'autism spectrum'.

Some young people on the autism spectrum are very independent, while others benefit from support at home, at school and in the community.

All people on the spectrum will have different strengths and interests.

Autistic people may need support with:

- Communication
- Social interaction
- Sensory processing
- Executive functioning (planning and learning)
- Self-care and independence

Go to positivepartnerships.com.au

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How many people are autistic and how is autism diagnosed?

The current research suggests that within a group of 100 people, 1 or 2 of them will be autistic. People can be diagnosed early or later in life.



Both boys and girls can be on the spectrum, but boys are 3 times more likely than girls to be diagnosed as we currently recognise autism more in boys.

Research indicates that environmental conditions and genetic factors play a role in a person being autistic.

To have your child assessed for autism, talk to your General Practitioner (G.P.) or paediatrician. An assessment will often be completed by two or three health professionals observing your child and talking with them and your family.

Autistic people are part of every culture and community around the world.