

# World Autism Acceptance Week

*Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March*

*to*

*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023*



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# What is Autism Acceptance Week?

This year, World Autism Acceptance Week has changed its name from World Autism Awareness Week by the **National Autistic Society**. The National Autistic Society is 60 years old and was set up in the UK by a group of parents of autistic children.



# What is Autism Acceptance Week?

A week has been dedicated to educate everyone about autism and to **make the world friendlier to autistic people.**

It was the **United Nations** who agreed in December 2007 that World Autism Awareness would begin in 2008 to help raise awareness of autism.



UNITED NATIONS

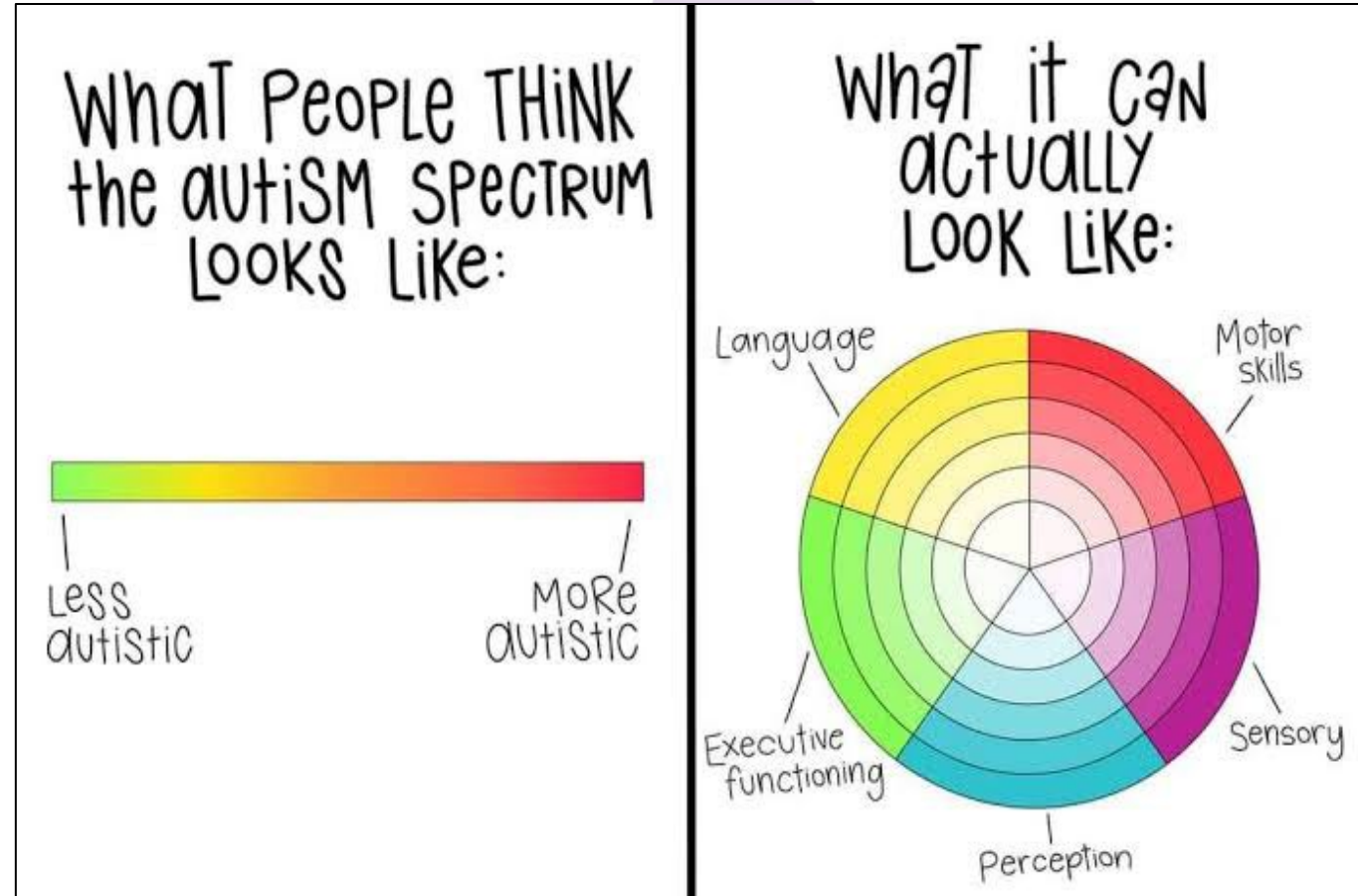
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# What is Autism?

Autism affects **how children and adults communicate and interact with the world.**

All autistic people are all different and have **different strengths and difficulties.**

It is a lifelong neurological condition.

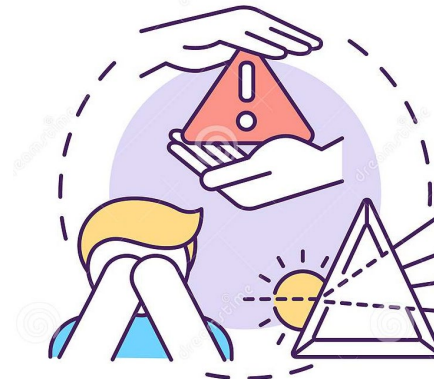


# What is Autism?

Some autistic people...

- find it **hard to communicate and interact** with other people
- find it **hard to understand how** other people think or feel
- find things like **bright lights** or **loud noises** or other sensory stimulus

overwhelming, stressful or uncomfortable



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# What is Autism?

Some autistic people also...

- get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events
- take longer to understand information
- do or think the same things over and over because they enjoy the routine



# Autism and Girls

- Statistically, **more boys than girls are diagnosed with autism.**
- Many girls may not be diagnosed or might get diagnosed later on in life because **they are more likely to mask (camouflage) their difficulties.**
- At times they can be misdiagnosed with other conditions.
- Girls with autism don't often get the support they need



# How can we help?

**It is not always obvious who has autism.**

Autistic children and adults are not all the same.

Ask questions to understand.

What is important to you?

What interests you?

What are you good at?

What do you find difficult?

How can I help you?





# How can we help?

It is important that we:

- Are kind to each other
- Are patient; take the time to listen to what people are saying
- Say exactly what we mean; sometimes autistic people don't understand hidden meanings
- Accept everyone for who they are and celebrate their differences



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