

(A Few) Characteristics of Autism

1

Differences in Communication and Social Interaction

Autistic individuals may repeat phrases that they've heard before (echolalia), maintain eye contact based on relationship with the person, differences in tone, facial expressions, and body language.



2

Differences in Regulation

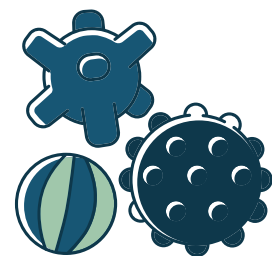
May use focused or passionate interests for leisure and/or regulation, respond well to order and routines during & in-between tasks, and move, twirl, or flap (clothing, body parts, hair) for sensory needs.



3

Sensory Differences

Autistic Individuals may be sensitive to the environment (loud sounds, bright lights, smells/textures from various food), difficulties with body awareness, motor coordination and recognizing sensations, impacting daily tasks like feeding, sleep patterns, hygiene tasks, etc.



Every Autistic person experiences the world differently - it's a spectrum. Autism is not limited by race, age, gender, or culture. Autistic characteristics can also change during development or based on the level of stress or complexity of the social environment. Some people are more stressed in unfamiliar or community settings, while some characteristics may not be present at home.

Sources:

Autistic Self Advocacy Network. (2021). Start here: A guide for parents of autistic kids. "Signs and Symptoms of Autism". Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 28, 2022.