

What is Autism?

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Autism is a label that helps us understand the varying neurological differences in how a child learns, thinks, experiences the world, and relates to others.

Unfortunately, autism isn't always talked about in a positive way. There are a lot of misconceptions about autism and that can make the diagnosis overwhelming and scary for parents. Autism is not a disease or an illness that needs to be cured; it is a different, yet valid way of being human. Autism can lead to challenges, but autistic people can and do lead happy, fulfilling lives. They just need some extra supports along the way.

No professional can predict what a child's future will look like. Autistic children continue to develop new skills and become more independent as time goes on. Forward is forward, no matter the speed. When planning for a child's future, focus on goals for the next 6 months, not the rest of their life.

The purpose of therapy and accessible education for an autistic child is not to "fix" their deficits, make them more compliant, or make them act less autistic. The purpose of these services should be to help the child develop meaningful skills in meaningful ways and help them reach their fullest potential.