

# Talking to Kids About Autism

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## Quick Facts About Autism- For Kids

Autism is not contagious. If you play with someone who has autism you will not get autism.

People with autism can be very smart, and they may be really good at something like puzzles, video games, playing an instrument, or reading.

Some people with autism have a fascination (one thing they like a lot). A person with autism may be an expert in that thing they like a lot.

People with autism may act or think differently because they see the world in a different way.

People with autism may scream, run away, or hurt someone if they are confused, mad, or feeling bad. They are not trying to be bad or mean.

Many people with autism have a hard time talking to others, and they may use pictures to help them communicate.

Many people with autism like things to stay the same. They may get upset if things change.

Many people with autism have very strong senses and may do things like cover their ears if it is too loud.

People with autism want to have friends.

Remember that even if your friend is not talking to you, it doesn't mean that he or she does not like you being around.

Keep in mind that your friend may not understand how you are feeling.

Ask before you give your friend a hug. He or she may not like being touched.

Invite your friend to play with you. If he or she doesn't know how to play the game, show them.

*Jamie has been teaching Autism Support for five years at Knapp Elementary. She lives in Hatboro-Horsham with her husband, Matt and son, Luciano. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, fitness, and spending time with her family. Jamie has a passion for working with students with disabilities and believes in a consistent, positive and respectful approach to making lasting, meaningful changes. She also believes we all have something to contribute and learns so much from her students each day.*

