

dif·fer·ent

Not the same as another or each other; unlike in nature, form, or quality.

At the Autism Society, we believe what makes you different, makes you special.



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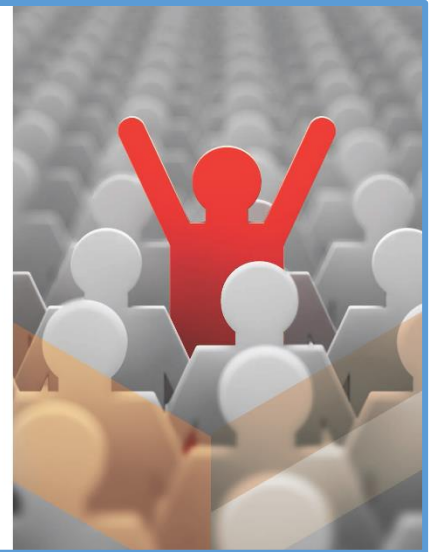


Learn



Give

#CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES www.autismakron.org/differences



APRIL 2019

#CELEBRATEDIFFERENCES – BE A FRIEND!

Every person in the world is unique in his or her own special way. We believe what makes you different, makes you special! When you become a friend to a person with autism, you can both learn a lot from each other. Understanding autism and how to interact with people with autism comes from being exposed to them. Learning how to treat and talk to a person with autism can help you be a better friend.

Here are a few tips for being a friend to someone with autism:

- Always be kind and compassionate.
- Accept your friend's differences and realize your friend may have information or skills that you can learn from as well.
- Treat them like anyone else and talk to them like you would talk to another one of your friends.
- Try not to use sarcasm or slang as your friend may not understand ("get over it," "let's hang out")
- Your friend's behavior is often their way of communicating. They might scream, hit themselves, repeat phrases or throw things because they have a hard time telling people what they want or need. Try to figure out what your friend is saying with their behavior.
- Give your friend extra time to answer your question or complete an activity.
- Protect your friend when others try to bully or make them do something that is not appropriate.
- Understand your friend may be bothered by things that you are not (loud noises or bright lighting).
- Help others learn about and accept autism.
- Join your friend in activities that interest them.
- Invite your friend to join you in group activities, such as going to the movies, hanging out with other friends, or attending sporting or school events.
- Ask them to do things with you, but don't just explain it to them. Show them what to do so they can imitate you.
- Say something to your friend when they do good things. You can cheer, give high-fives or just tell them "great work". They like to be complimented too!