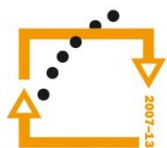




EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



**OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost**

INVESTICE
DO ROZVOJE
VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

AUTISM

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What is autism?

- Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around them. Children and adults with autism have difficulties with everyday social interaction. Their ability to develop friendships is generally limited as is their capacity to understand other people's emotional expression.
- People with autism can often have accompanying learning disabilities but everyone with the condition shares a difficulty in making sense of the world.
- There is also a condition called Asperger syndrome, which is a form of autism used to describe people who are usually at the higher functioning end of the autistic spectrum.
- "Reality to an autistic person is a confusing, interacting mass of events, people, places, sounds and sights. There seems to be no clear boundaries, order or meaning to anything. A large part of my life is spent just trying to work out the pattern behind everything."

- A person with autism

Symptoms

- social interaction,
- communication
- routine and repetitive behavior

Social interaction Issues

- A child who has ASD may find it hard to get on with other people. They may:
- seem distant or detached,
- have little or no interest in other people, and find it difficult make friends,
- not seek affection in the usual way, or resist physical contact such as kissing and cuddling,
- find it difficult to make eye contact with other people,
- not understand other peoples emotions, and
- prefer to spend time alone.

Communication Issues

- A child who has ASD may develop speech later than other children, or never learn to speak. When their speech does develop, the language and choice of words they use may be wrong.
- A child with ASD may also:
 - not be able to express themselves well,
 - not be able to understand gestures, facial expressions, or tones of voice,
 - use odd phrases and use odd choices of words,
 - use more words than is necessary to explain simple things,
 - make up their own words or phrases,
 - not use their hands to make gestures when they speak, and
 - find it difficult to understand difficult commands.

Routine and repetitive behavior

- Children with ASD may:
- play the same games over and over, or play with games designed for children younger than themselves,
- get upset if their daily routines are interrupted in any way, and
- repeat actions, such as rocking back and forth or head banging.
- These symptoms may lead to hyperactivity in younger children.
- Older children and adults may develop obsessions. For example, with specific objects, lists, timetables or routines.

Sensory difficulties

- Some children with ASD also have sensory difficulties. This means that they may get upset if they are over or under stimulated. For example, they may prefer being indoors if they are over sensitive to light, or they may bump into people if they are under sensitive to touch.
- Sensory difficulties can also lead to problems with movement. A person with ASD may appear clumsy or have an unusual way of walking.

Exceptional and not „retarded?“

- Recent research shows that people with autism have unexceptional abilities that are quite diverse from the general society (Lovecky, 2003). For example, they remember the order of words better than the order of sentences, they remember faces turned up-side down better than faces right-side up, they play puzzles according to the shape of the pieces and not the picture or colors, they repeat a nonsense text with accuracy but would not repeat a meaningful sentence, or they recognize faces not according to the eyes or smile but thanks to details not even noticeable for our eyes (Frith, Happe, 1994).

Myths and facts about autism

Myth	Reality
Autism (including Asperger syndrome) is a rare condition Autism is no longer seen as a rare condition and is thought to affect around 535,000 people in the UK today	Autism (including Asperger syndrome) is a rare condition Autism is no longer seen as a rare condition and is thought to affect around 535,000 people in the UK today
Autism is a new phenomenon The first detailed description of a child we now know had autism was written in 1799 by Jean Itard in his account of the wild boy of Aveyron.	Autism is a new phenomenon The first detailed description of a child we now know had autism was written in 1799 by Jean Itard in his account of the wild boy of Aveyron.
Autism is the result of emotional deprivation or emotional stress Autism is a complex developmental disability involving a biological or organic defect in the functioning of the brain	Autism is the result of emotional deprivation or emotional stress Autism is a complex developmental disability involving a biological or organic defect in the functioning of the brain

Myths and facts about autism

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<p>Autism is due to parental rejection or cold, unemotional parents Autism has nothing whatsoever to do with the way parents bring up their children</p>	<p>Autism is due to parental rejection or cold, unemotional parents Autism has nothing whatsoever to do with the way parents bring up their children</p>
<p>A person with autism cannot be educated With the right structured support within and outside of school, individuals with autism can be helped to reach their full potential</p>	<p>A person with autism cannot be educated With the right structured support within and outside of school, individuals with autism can be helped to reach their full potential</p>
<p>People with autism wish to avoid social contact People with autism are often keen to make friends but, due to their disability, find this difficult</p>	<p>People with autism wish to avoid social contact People with autism are often keen to make friends but, due to their disability, find this difficult</p>

Myths and facts about autism

<p>People with autism look different from other people Autism is an invisible disability - most people with an autistic spectrum disorder look just like anyone else who does not have this condition</p>	<p>People with autism look different from other people Autism is an invisible disability - most people with an autistic spectrum disorder look just like anyone else who does not have this condition</p>
<p>Autism is a childhood condition Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no cure. Children with autism grow up to be adults with autism</p>	<p>Autism is a childhood condition Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no cure. Children with autism grow up to be adults with autism</p>
<p>All people with autism have a extraordinary ability like the Dustin Hoffman character in the film <i>Rain man</i></p>	<p>People with autism who have an extraordinary talent are referred to as 'autistic savants'. Savants are rare: Between 2 and 3% of the UK population have some degree of learning disability, but only 0.06% of these were initially estimated to possess an unusually high level of specific ability. Savant ability is more frequently associated with those having some form of autism rather than with other disabilities. Current thinking holds that at most 1 or 2 in 200 individuals with an autistic spectrum disorder might have a genuine savant talent. However, there is no reliable frequency estimate as yet as there is still no register of people with autism in the UK.</p>

Who do you Know !!

- Identify at least one fictional character who is autistic.
- Name Two film characters who are autistic.
- Name one Famous Historical Person who is autistic.
- Name at least one contemporary Famous person who is autistic.
- Can you name any writer who writes about autism?

<http://www.child-autism-parent-cafe.com/famous-people-with-autism.html>

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