

AUTISM?

DID YOU KNOW?...

PROMOTING COMMUNITY AWARENESS



18 where do the children play.mp3



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Autism Team

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Some Myths & Facts about Autism

- ❖ Its another term for learning difficulties?
- ❖ False, some do, some do not and they can have a dual diagnosis also, i.e Down Syndrome, Epilepsy.
- ❖ Involves difficulties with communication
- ❖ True, all people on the autism spectrum experience difficulties with communication. Some use speech, others do not.
- ❖ A developmental disorder involving the brain?
- ❖ True, research and brain scans show the difference between a “typically” developing person’s brain and the brain of a person who has been diagnosed with autism.

Some Myths & Facts about Autism

- ❖ Once speech begins, other difficulties disappear?
- ❖ False, speech is only one aspect of communication and communication is one of the difficulties people who have autism experience.
- ❖ Is caused by bad parenting?
- ❖ False, it is linked to the brain.
- ❖ May be associated with bowel problems?
- ❖ True, but not for all people with autism.
- ❖ A lifelong disability?
- ❖ True, currently there is no cure so it is lifelong.

Some Myths & Facts about Autism

- ❖ May be accompanied by differing degrees of learning difficulties?
- ❖ True, some people have autism and a learning disability, it varies from mild to severe.
- ❖ Results from bad behaviour and naughtiness?
- ❖ False, currently the cause is being researched by people from a number of countries. No one cause has been confirmed at this time.
- ❖ More likely in boys than girls?
- ❖ True, according to Dr Rosie Burrows (2010) "is Anyone Listening" AutismNI, 4:1 is the current ratio. The prevalence of autism was 1:166 but it is now estimated as 1:100

Some Myths & Facts about Autism

- ❖ Always occurs with an area of genius ability?
- ❖ False, for some this may be true but not always.

- ❖ A middle class disorder?
- ❖ False, it can and does happen in every country and class.

- ❖ Genetically linked-there is an increased rate of occurrence in other family members?
- ❖ True, it can be in some families but it can also occur in isolation.

❖ Taken from National Autistic Society(NAS) EarlyBird parent Programme

A PARENTS PERSPECTIVE

- ❖ **This video is a mother introducing us to her son through photos. Her son has autism.**



The face of autism.flv

AUTISM- DEFINITION

❖ The word “autism” originates from the Greek word “autos” which means “self” .

❖ ...Autism is characterized by “impairments in reciprocal (two way) social interaction, social communication and social imagination. These can lead to the presence of repetitive, inflexible behaviour”

❖ (Zwaigenbaum et al, 2009)

❖ Lorna Wing (1960?) identified the above differences as the Triad Of Impairment.

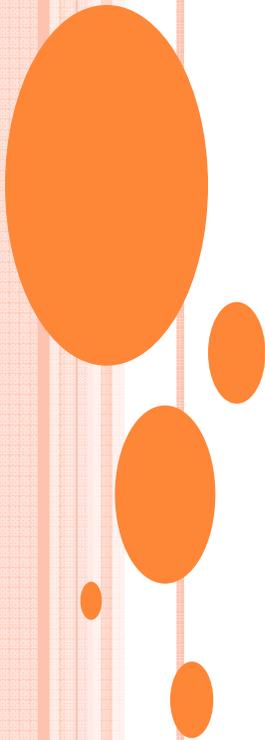
❖ (Reference " *AUTISTIC CONTINUUM DISORDERS an aid to diagnosis*". London: The National Autistic Society)

WHAT IS AUTISM

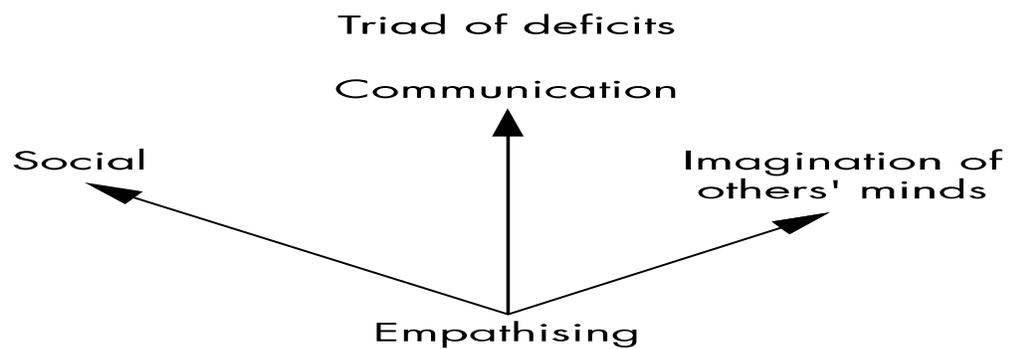
❖ It is a neurological condition , the brain develops in a different way or the pathways that signals pass from one part of the brain to another do not connect in the same way as ours do.

❖ *"Autism is not me. Autism is just an information processing problem that controls who I am"*

❖ *Donna Williams author of "Nobody, Nowhere and Somebody, Somewhere"*



TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS



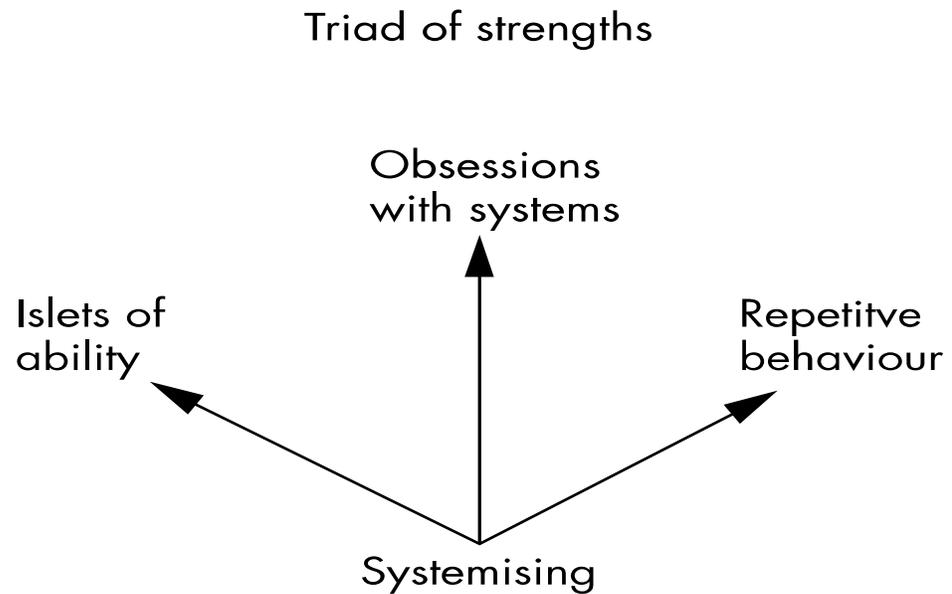
- ❖ They need to meet set criteria known as the triad of impairments; this will/may include
- ❖ May have Speech difficulties.
- ❖ May be withdrawn and unresponsive.
- ❖ Dislike changes to routine.
- ❖ Disinterested in people or surroundings.

MORE CHARACTERISTICS

- ❖ May have difficulty with sleeping/toileting.
- ❖ May have unusual fear of strangers or new places/activities.
- ❖ Repetitive behaviours such as hand flapping or spinning.
- ❖ May show obsessive interest in one toy or activity.
- ❖ May eat only certain foods (colours or textures).
- ❖ This list is not an exhaustive one.

<http://www.autism.ie/what-is-autism>

Another way to view a person with autism

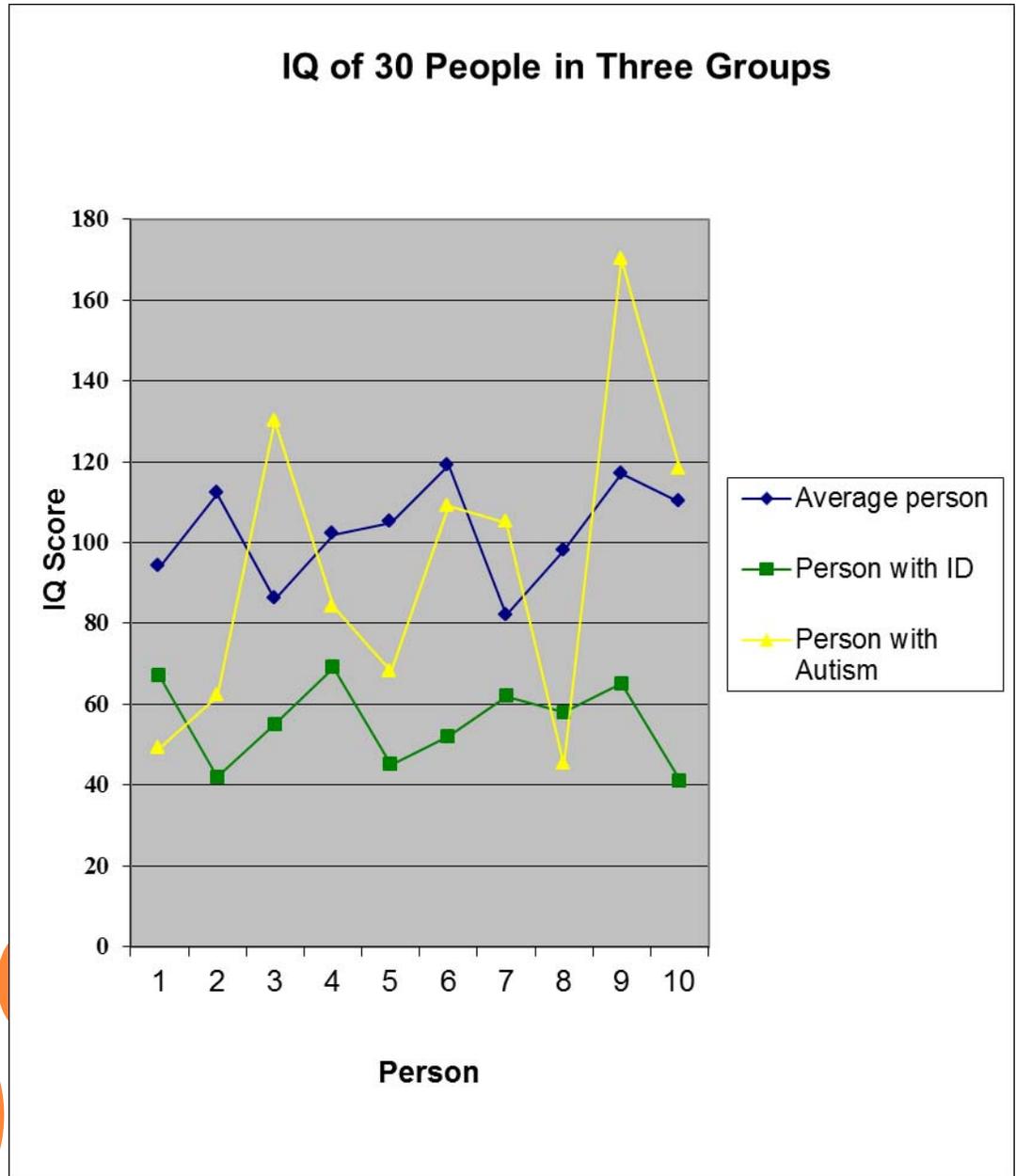


Here is a video that tests our attention, you might find this interesting.



[selective attention test - YouTube.flv](#)

IQ of 30 People in Three Groups



Dr Michael McCreadie Presentation
Consultant to Western Care Association

AUTISM IS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE

- ❖ People who have autism are individuals who experience the world differently to us, but enjoy the world as we do.
- ❖ Here Rosie King introduces us to some individuals with autism, who experience it differently.



Autism - Google+.flv

A COMMON EXPERIENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH ASD-SENSORY DIFFERENCES

- ❖ We are all aware of the 5 senses:
 - ❖ Sight;
 - ❖ Taste;
 - ❖ Hearing;
 - ❖ Smell and
 - ❖ Touch.
- ❖ However there are others ;
- ❖ Proprioceptive (awareness of our body in space/spatial awareness) Our muscles and joints provide this sensory information to our brain.
- ❖ Vestibular (balance)
- ❖ Sometimes people with autism have sensory experiences either too sensitive (hyper) low sensitivity (hypo).

- ❖ If it is hyper they may try to avoid (loud noisy environment), they may put their hands over their ears or want to avoid that environment.

- ❖ If it is hypo they may not register the sound (they may not respond to their name being called)



What is Sensory Processing Disorder - YouTube.flv

BEHAVIOURS/SENSORY DIFFERENCES THAT SOME FAMILIES EXPERIENCE.

- ❖ First two videos of differences person/families experience.
- ❖ Third Video provides you with an example of how/what sensory overload might feel like.



Reality of Autism Rarely Seen on TV - YouTube.flv



Autism stimming in the car - YouTube.flv



Sensory Overload Simulation - YouTube.flv

TEMPLE GRANDIN'S PERSPECTIVE

- ❖ Temple Grandin is known for her designs to improve the movement of cattle in slaughter houses in the US .
- ❖ She gives talks on both veterinary matters and autism.
- ❖ Temple grew up in the 1950's & 1960's and thanks her mother for teaching her how to behave in social situations.
- ❖ A film was made in the last few years about Temple's life.



Ten Minutes with Temple - An Autism Hangout Beyond the Headlines Report - YouTube.flv

WENDY LAWSON

❖ Wendy progressed from a child deemed to be intellectually disabled to a Mum of four children who now has 5 university degrees. She runs her own business; training people who want to understand autism. She is a poet and a writer.

❖ Wendy has found both herself and her space, a place of belonging and hope.



WENDY LAWSON'S PERSPECTIVE



" I know that I am alive; I breathe, move, talk and function just like any other Human being. However, I understand(because it has been said to me) that other people perceive me as being different to them. My difference expresses itself in various ways, (egocentricity, eccentricity, and emotional immaturity) but, in particular, in my uneven skill ability....."

Retrieved from <http://www.mugsy.org/wendy/>

10 THINGS EVERY CHILD WITH AUTISM WISHES YOU KNEW

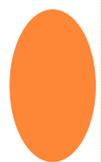
❖ Some advice on how people around them can help the person with autism.



10 Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew - YouTube.flv

10 Things every child with Autism wishes you knew.

- My sensory perceptions are disordered
- Distinguish between won't and can't
- I am a concrete thinker, I interpret language literally
- Be patient with my limited vocabulary
- Because language is so difficult for me, I am very visually oriented
- Focus and build on what I can do rather than what I can't do
- Help me with social interactions
- Identify what triggers my meltdowns
- Love me unconditionally



CONCLUSION

- ❖ Autism is a neurological difference.
- ❖ It is lifelong.
- ❖ We can help people by getting them, to know how they experience the world.
- ❖ We can help them by adapting the way we communicate and interact with them.
- ❖ We can accept their difference to make the community a place they can belong and become active and valued members.
- ❖ **One last Quote:**
- ❖ "Remember they cannot change but we can change the way we view them"

ATLASS: McReadie & Martin 2011

Web-sites for more information

- The National Autistic Society
- www.nas.org.uk
- Special Education Support Service
- www.sess.ie
- National Council for Special Education
- www.ncse.ie
- Barbara Doyle Autism Consultant
- www.barbaradoyle.com
- www.sensory-processing-disorder.com
- Irish Autism Action
- www.autismireland.ie
- Irish Society for Autism
- www.autism.ie

Questions?



Thank You.