

AutismONTARIO

TEN FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

AUTISM IS NEURODEVELOPMENTAL

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition affecting the way a person communicates and relates to people and the world around them.



AUTISM HAS NO CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

Autism exists in all cultures, ethnicities, races, and gender identities.



AUTISM IS A TYPE OF NEURODIVERSITY

Being autistic means that a person's brain may process information differently than non-autistic, or neurotypical, people.



AUTISM MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE

A person on the spectrum might talk about autism one way, while an autistic person's family or a medical professional may refer to it another way.



NEURODIVERSITY DOES NOT MEAN DISORDER

Many autistic people prefer the terms neurological "difference" or "condition", which remove the negative associations with the word "disorder."



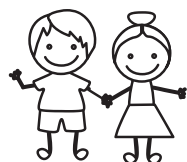
NOT EVERY AUTISTIC PERSON IS THE SAME

Autism exists on a spectrum, meaning each person on the autism spectrum experiences autism in a different way and the support they need varies.



AUTISM DIAGNOSES ARE PREVALENT IN CHILDHOOD

1 in 66 Canadian children and youth (ages 5-17) are diagnosed with autism.



1-2% OF CANADIANS ARE AUTISTIC

Approximately 1-2% of the Canadian population is on the autism spectrum, which means there are approximately 135,000 autistic people in Ontario.



USE PERSON-FIRST OR IDENTITY-FIRST LANGUAGE

People talk about autism using identity-first language (autistic person) or person-first language (person with autism). Most autistic people prefer identity-first language. When in doubt, just ask.



EVERY AUTISTIC PERSON CAN THRIVE WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT

Many autistic people prefer the terms "high or low support needs" rather than "high or low functioning".

