



What is Autism?

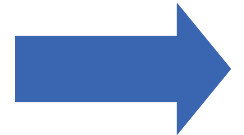
People with autism have brains that work differently than yours or mine. They are not sick. You can not catch autism.

Sometimes people with autism may do things that may make you uncomfortable. Things like saying things over and over, acting like they can't hear you, or becoming upset when small things change.

People with autism have strengths and weaknesses just like you. They are good at understanding pictures, paying attention to one thing, learning routines, and playing with people they know well. They have a hard time understanding words, learning a new way to do something, making new friends, and changing from one activity to another.

Most important is that people with autism are people! They are unique, just like you and me. No two people with autism have exactly the same strengths or challenges.

Turn the page over to do a puzzle about the different pieces of autism.



Instructions:

Color in the puzzle pieces with one of the 3 colors.

If the puzzle piece has a **STRENGTH** of people with autism, color it **BLUE**.

If the puzzle piece has a **CHALLENGE** for people with autism, color it **YELLOW**.

If the puzzle piece says something that you **HAVE IN COMMON** with people who have autism, color it **RED**.

