

Autism

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First Reactions

What words or phrases come into your mind when thinking about autism?



A little bit of history

- First identified by Leo Kanner (1943) & Hans Asperger (1944)
- Lorna Wing and Judith Gould (1979) – Triad of Impairments
- Asperger's Syndrome (1980's)
- Ongoing research, leading to new & increased understanding – DSM 5 / ICD 11, etc.



Terminology

What do the following stand for in terms of autism?

ASC – ASD – AS – HFA

What terms should we use?

A person with autism?

An autistic person?

Someone who has autism?

(see also Neuro-diverse / Neuro-typical)



True or False?

- **Autism is classed as a type of learning disability**
- **Autism is caused by the MMR vaccine**
- **The majority of autistic people find socialising very important**
- **Women cannot be autistic**



DSM 5 / ICD 11 – a Dyad

Social
communication
and interaction.

Restricted, repetitive
patterns of behaviour,
interests or activities.

And...

More emphasis on
sensory issues



But also...

- **Sensory issues (hyper or hypo)**
- **Anxiety and depression**
- **Knock-on physical effects**
- **Sense of identity**
- **Poor balance / bad at sports / clumsy**
- **Food intolerances / bad tummies**
- **Memory...? ('selective')**
- **Alexithymia**
- **Strong sense of right and wrong and sticking to the rules**
- **Conventional presentation for unconventional reasons**
- **THERE IS A DISTINCT LACK OF RESEARCH!**



Alexithymia

May or may not be good at ‘cognitive empathy’ and reading other people, but very poor at noticing own emotions, unless obvious

Need extra time to process information or answer questions anyway, especially about feelings. May need help to work it out.

