UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Autism is a spectrum - every autistic person is unique!

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a neurodevelopmental brain difference that affects how a person communicates, learns, and interacts with the world.
Autism DOES NOT AFFECT SOMEONES INTELLIGENCE!



AUTISM IS:

- LIFELONG and part of a person's identify. Children grow up to still be an Autistic Adult
- often linked to sensory differences and strong interests.
- a valid way of experiencing life.

WHAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT?

- expressing themselves with words.
- changes in routines or expectations.
- loud noises, bright lights, or strong smells
- following multi-step directions without visual support.
- generalizing skills across different settings.

AUTISM IS NOT:

- caused by vaccines or bad parenting. We have learned that it is GENETICS
- a behavior problem.
- something to be "fixed."
- a lack of intelligence or ability.
- the same for everyone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- presume competence!
- give them time to respond.
- accept any form of communication.
- respect their refusal.
- follow their lead.
- use visuals.
- educate their peers about autism
- provide structure and routines.