



Sesame Street and Autism see amazing in all children



See the Amazing Explaining Autism to Young Children

Young children are more comfortable being with kids with special needs once they learn about them. Kids who have never met a child with autism may find some behaviors strange or a little scary, but you can ease their concerns and encourage friendships to grow. The following **talking points** can help you talk with all children about autism:

- It's okay to be curious about people different from you. We are all made differently. No one is the same. Isn't that neat?
- Your brain is like the boss of your body. **It's what makes you you!** The brain has an important job: It helps you make sense of the world around you. [Child's name] has autism. His [Her] brain works differently than yours. Sometimes it is harder for him [her] to talk, listen, play, and learn in the same way you do. But he [she] might also be better at [drawing, reading, playing music, doing math] than other children.
- Your brain lets you understand everything you see, hear, smell, touch, and taste. The brain of a person with autism works differently, and that can make it hard to talk, listen, understand, play, and learn in the same way that others do. It can affect all of their senses, too, sometimes too much or sometimes too little. Many autistic people are good at remembering videos, drawing, reading, and lots of other things.
- Everyone with autism is different, the same way **all children have differences**. Some children do things differently from others.
- People have other ways besides talking to tell us what they know and want. Children with autism might point to an object, put your hand on an object for help, repeat what you say, or **use sounds or pictures** to let you know what they want. Children with autism may also have different ways of calming down or showing that they are excited, such as by flapping their hands, rocking, or repeating noises.
- When you see your friend hand flapping, rocking, or repeating noises, it might mean she is having a hard time and is trying to calm herself down. Or it may mean she's excited.
- An autistic friend may not look at people or answer them right away, but that doesn't mean he or she isn't listening. The child may need more time to respond. Kids who talk to an autistic friend may need to wait a bit for an answer or repeat their words. They may need to practice patience, too. Children should let grown-ups know if they see someone being unkind to an autistic child.

What do you say? Share this article and your own ways of explaining autism with #seeamazing