

## Quick Guide to:

# Autism



Autism is a lifelong, developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them. Every person with Autism is unique and their Autism will be displayed in different ways.

Children with Autism have individual interests and skills, but are often really good at:

- ◇ Visual, categorising and technical tasks
- ◇ Finding out and remembering facts about subjects that interest them



Children with Autism may have difficulties with:

### Social Communication

- ◇ Making their needs known
- ◇ Understanding instructions
- ◇ Reading facial expressions



### Social Interaction

- ◇ Friendships
- ◇ Managing unstructured parts of the day
- ◇ Working cooperatively

### Flexibility of Thought

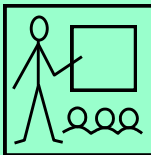
- ◇ Moving between activities
- ◇ Coping with change
- ◇ Pretend play

### Sensory Processing

- ◇ Processing noise, light, texture, taste and/or smells
- ◇ Ability to balance or to know where they are in space

At school, we try to:

- ◇ Adapt the environment to make it suitable for everyone
- ◇ Make learning predictable using visual support
- ◇ Personalise the curriculum around children's special interests and talents
- ◇ Prepare children for changes
- ◇ Create a sensory programme for each pupil to help them tolerate their environment
- ◇ Work with families to keep home and school as consistent as possible
- ◇ Celebrate difference in all aspects of school life
- ◇ Teach children how to play and make friends
- ◇ Support older children to understand their diagnosis and strategies which support them
- ◇ Help peers to understand how their friends with Autism learn and what they can do to support them



Want to find out more?

<http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/kids%20zone.aspx>



<http://www.autism.org.uk/about.aspx>

Got a question?

Please contact the Autism Resource Base:  
[m.nadarajah@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk](mailto:m.nadarajah@kentishtown.camden.sch.uk)