

Autism awareness flashcards

Print out this handout double-sided so that pages 1 and 2 are back-to-back. Then, cut the cards up and paper clip them together so that when they are given to participants, the statement is facing upwards and the answer is on the underside.

These flashcards have been taken from our 25-minute CPD course, **Autism Awareness**. To find out more about joining CPD Toolkit, head to thekeysupport.com/cpd

People with ASD don't care about others

Fact or **myth**?

Autism only affects boys

Fact or **myth**?

Symptoms of autism can vary between people

Fact or **myth**?

People don't grow out of autism

Fact or **myth**?

Children with autism are often savants

Fact or **myth**?

Some children may have signs of other conditions alongside autism

Fact or **myth**?

Autism is a hidden disability

Fact or **myth**?

Autistic people can learn social skills

Fact or **myth**?

The MMR vaccine causes ASD

Fact or **myth**?

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To read more about each fact or myth, click on the hyperlink.

Fact: Symptoms of autism can vary between people

Autism is a spectrum condition. While all people with autism share certain difficulties, they will be affected in different ways. For a diagnosis to be made, difficulties must be persistent and limit everyday functioning.

Fact: Some children may have signs of other conditions alongside autism

Some people with autism may also have learning difficulties, mental health issues, or other conditions. This means different people need different levels of support.

Myth: The MMR vaccine causes ASD

In the past, some people believed the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine caused ASD. However, a number of major studies involving millions of children around the world have found no evidence of a link between the vaccine and ASD.

Myth: Autism only affects boys

Girls can also be diagnosed with autism, but it is four times more common in boys than girls.

Myth: Children with autism are often savants

Just under half of those diagnosed with autism also have a learning disability. Others have an IQ in the average to above average range. 'Savant' abilities are rare.

Fact: People with autism can learn social skills

People with autism can learn social skills, but need personalised, specialised teaching and training from professionals to do so. This is because they often don't develop some of the social skills we take for granted.

Myth: People with ASD don't care about others

People with ASD do care for and love others. However, they have problems expressing their feelings and affections.

Fact: People don't grow out of autism

There is no cure for autism, and it is a lifelong condition. However, a range of strategies can be used to support those with autism.

Fact: Autism is a hidden disability

ASD is a developmental disorder, which means it is a difference in the way the brain works. You can't always tell if someone has autism.