

Autism Fact Sheet - Preschool & Elementary

- When someone is autistic, it means their brain thinks, sees the world, and connects with others in unique ways.
- Kids with autism have thoughts and feelings, just like kids without autism.
- Every kid with autism is different in what they like, what they are good at, how they learn, and the things that might be hard for them.
- 1 in 36 kids in the United State are autistic.
- Some people with autism talk, and others do not. Just because someone doesn't talk out loud doesn't mean they don't have things to say or share.
- Kids with autism like to have friends, they just may show that interest in a way that is different than kids without autism.
- Things like bright lights and noises bother some kids with autism because their bodies and brains are more sensitive to processing sensory information.
- It is really important to celebrate the things that make us who we are! How can you help do this for yourself and other kids around you?

Reminders for being a good friend:

- Be patient and kind.
- Play in a way that includes everyone.
- Encourage different ways of thinking and playing.
- Focus on strengths and interests, rather than challenges and limitations.
- Find common interests and activities to connect with others.
- Celebrate differences rather than discouraging them.
- Be a buddy on the playground or during other activities by making sure everyone has someone to play with.