

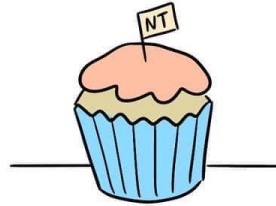


Abiding Presence Neurodiversity Ministry

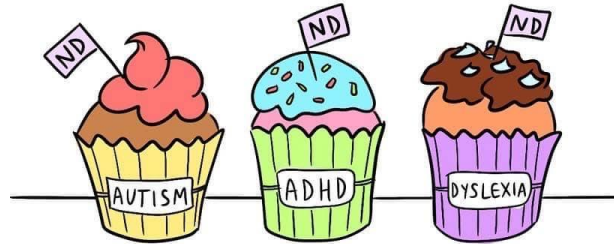
Our Goal: Create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.



Neurodiversity



Neurotypical brains are the ones most people are used to.



Any brain that is NOT neurotypical is said to be neurodivergent

Neurodiversity



There are many different types of neurodivergent brain.

Often, people are a mix of more than one neurotype.

This isn't even all of them.

Getting the language right



This group is NEURODIVERSE.
It has more than one type of brain.

(including a neurotypical brain!)

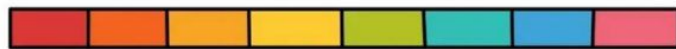


This is NOT a neurodiverse group
because there's only one neurotype.

Different diagnoses present differently in each person

Autism Spectrum

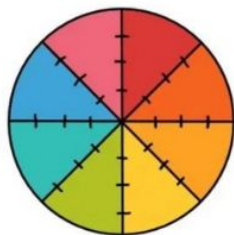
The Autism Spectrum is NOT linear



less autistic

very autistic

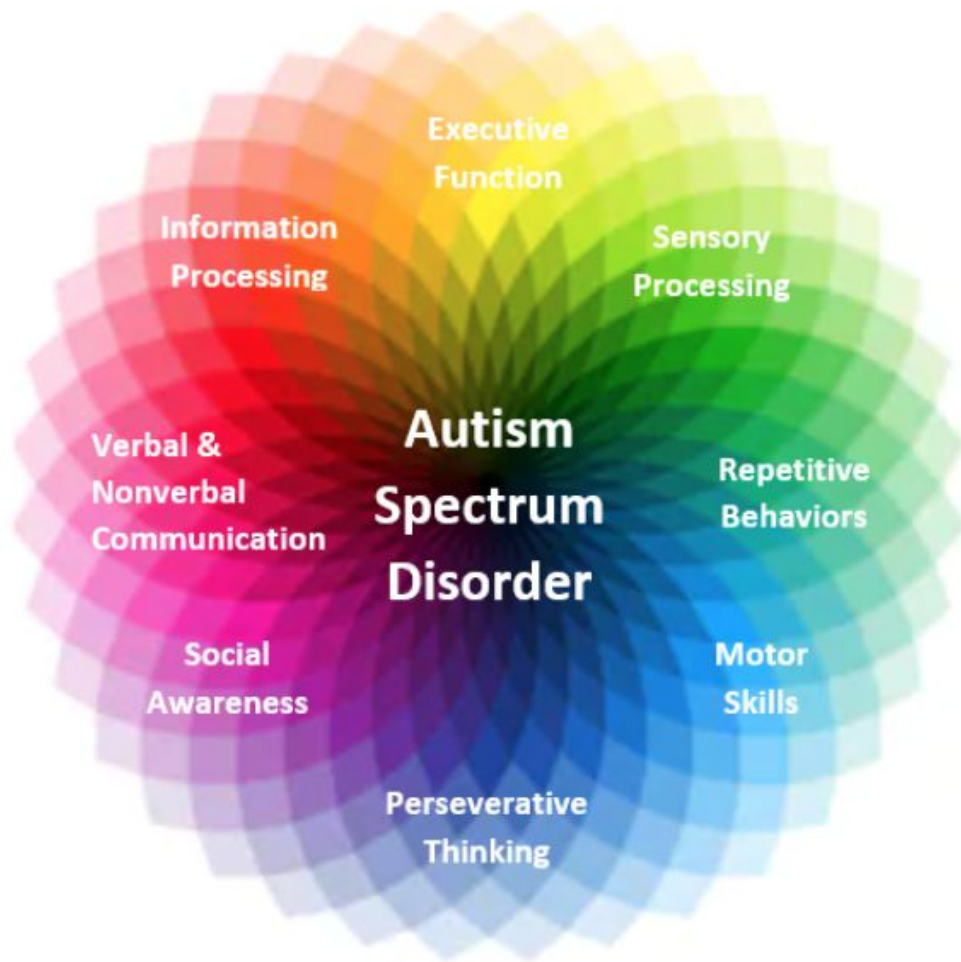
The Autism Spectrum looks more like:



- Social differences
- interests
- repetitions
- sensory sensitivities
- emotional regulation
- perception
- executive functioning
- other

Terms like "high functioning", "low functioning" are harmful and outdated.

Autism_sketches



**Autism
Spectrum
Disorder**

Executive
Function

Sensory
Processing

Repetitive
Behaviors

Motor
Skills

Perseverative
Thinking

Social
Awareness

Verbal &
Nonverbal
Communication

Information
Processing

Every person experiences the world differently.
It can be hard to imagine another person's experience,
especially when others have different brains
& sensory processing systems to you.

Your experience might
be like this...



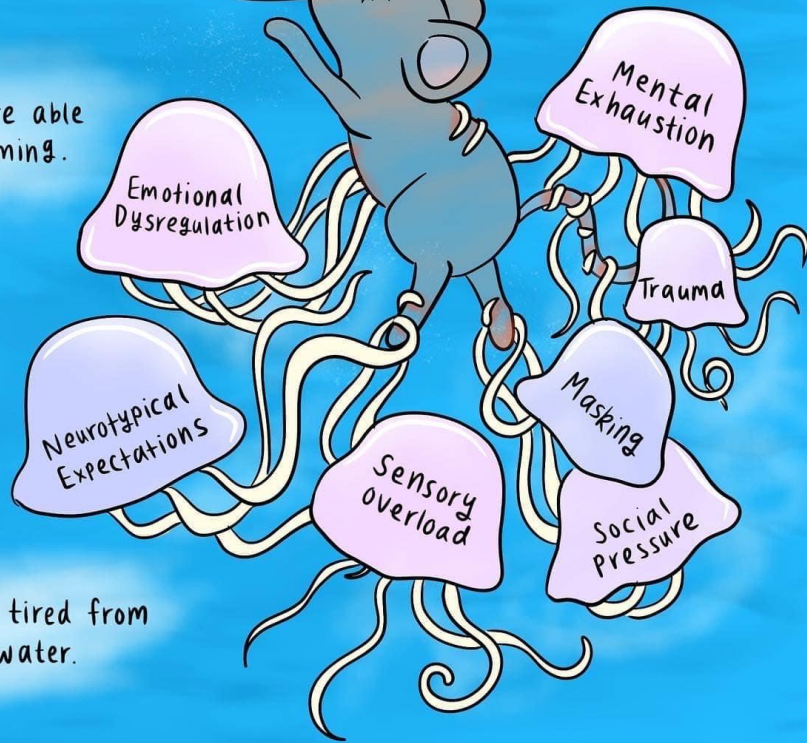
And another person's
might be like this.

Autistic people often
experience the world differently.

Sensory input is often too intense,
emotions can be all-consuming,
societal expectations feel impossible,
and the world often seems uncaring & ableist.



Some of us are able
to keep swimming.



Many are too tired from
treading water.

Some of us sink.

Neurodivergent Speakers

What are we doing already?

Notes in bulletin pointing out loud or non-routine events during the service

**Alerts, suggestions in Godspell program
(special thanks to
Michaela and Chris Barthold!)**

Fidgets

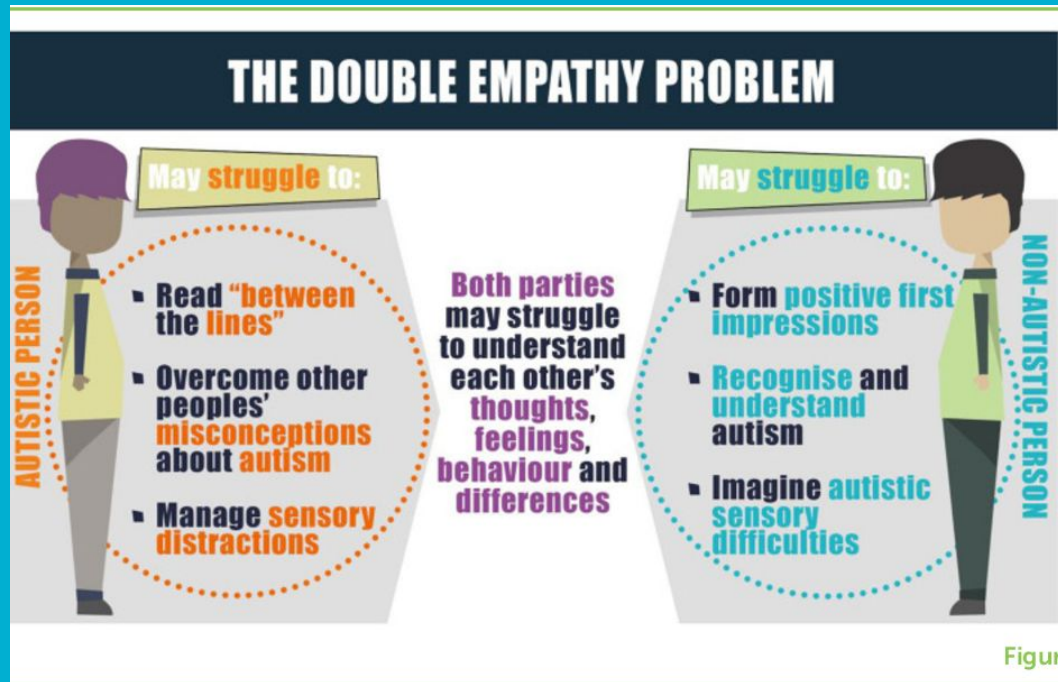
**Children's Activity Bags
(in place for years!!!)**

**How can Abiding Presence continue to be
a congregation that affirms
neurodiversity?**

3 Things to Know

The Double-empathy Problem

- 1 When people with different neurologies interact with each other, research shows that problems with social skills and perspective taking go both ways.
- 2 That means it's not autistic people who lack perspective-taking skills. Neurotypicals can't easily take the perspective of autistic people, either.
- 3 When we teach perspective taking to neurotypicals, too, we can truly begin to dismantle ableism and foster authentic participation.



Figure



HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT AUTISM



1

Everyone is Different: Just like everyone looks different on the outside, everyone's brains are different too. We all have our own unique strengths and weaknesses- and this is a **GOOD THING!**

2

Invisible Disabilities: There are many disabilities we can see just by looking at a person. But there are many people living with a disability that we cannot see on the outside. Just because we can't see it, doesn't mean it's not there.

3

What Autism is & What Autism is Not: Autism is a difference in the brain that allows people to experience things in a different way. Autism is **NOT** unintelligent, anti-social, wrong, or bad. It's just different.

4

Kindness & Including Others: Even though we are all different, we all have the same needs. Brainstorm specific ideas for what you can do to be kind and include someone who may feel left out.

Mrs. D
SPEECHIEP

**What does listening or learning
look like?**

Meet BUMPER:

A Whole Body Learner



Tactile Manipulators:

Exploring, Building,
Operating Tools,
Communicating

Mission Control:
Sensing, Analyzing,
Processing,
Communicating



Mobility Units:
Moving, Dancing,
Fidgeting, Bouncing

Inner Mechanics:
Charging, Fueling,
Feeling, Reacting

What do you look like when
you are learning?

Presume Competence



**Want to join our team?
Reach out to any team member**

OR

**Contact Nicole Zupan
nicizupan@gmail.com**

- Anouk@autism_sketches on Instagram
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CSe9uEqMVMB/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY=\)](https://www.instagram.com/p/CSe9uEqMVMB/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY=)
- For the autism wheel:
https://twitter.com/Autism_Sketches/status/1429089536441737226?s=20
- Comics from Neurowild