

Autism

Characteristics of autistic learners

Difficulties this may cause for them

Strategies we use to support learners with autism or autistic traits in the classroom



This child of mine

- ▶ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-43160564/asperger-syndrome>



Characteristics of autistic learners

- ▶ Loving
- ▶ Funny
- ▶ Kind
- ▶ Honest (sometimes a little too honest!)
- ▶ See the detail
- ▶ Computing
- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Graphics
- ▶ Imaginative
- ▶ Think outside the box (perhaps don't see the box)



So what's the problem?



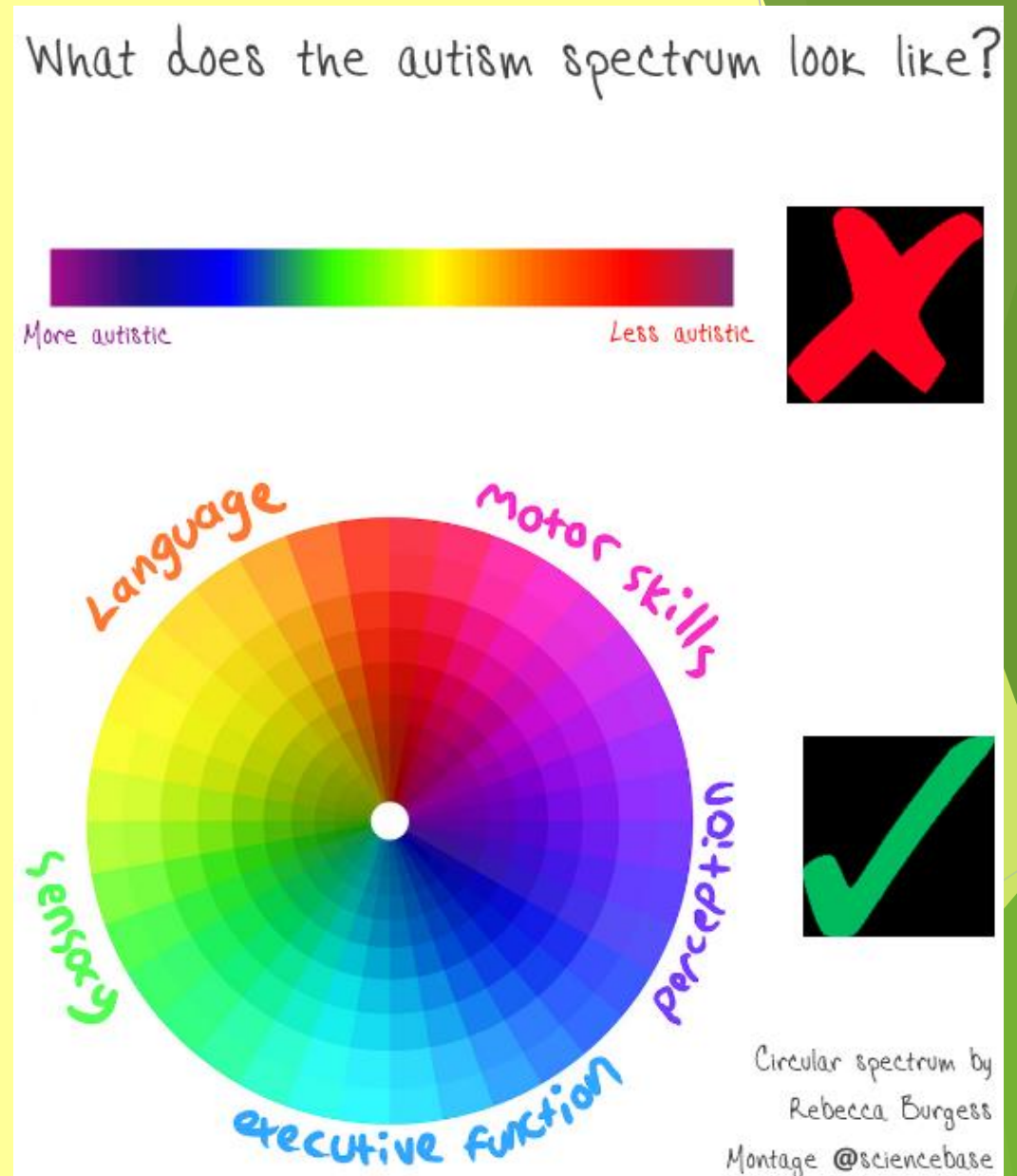
Autism - Definitions

- ▶ Autism is a lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them.



Autism - Definitions

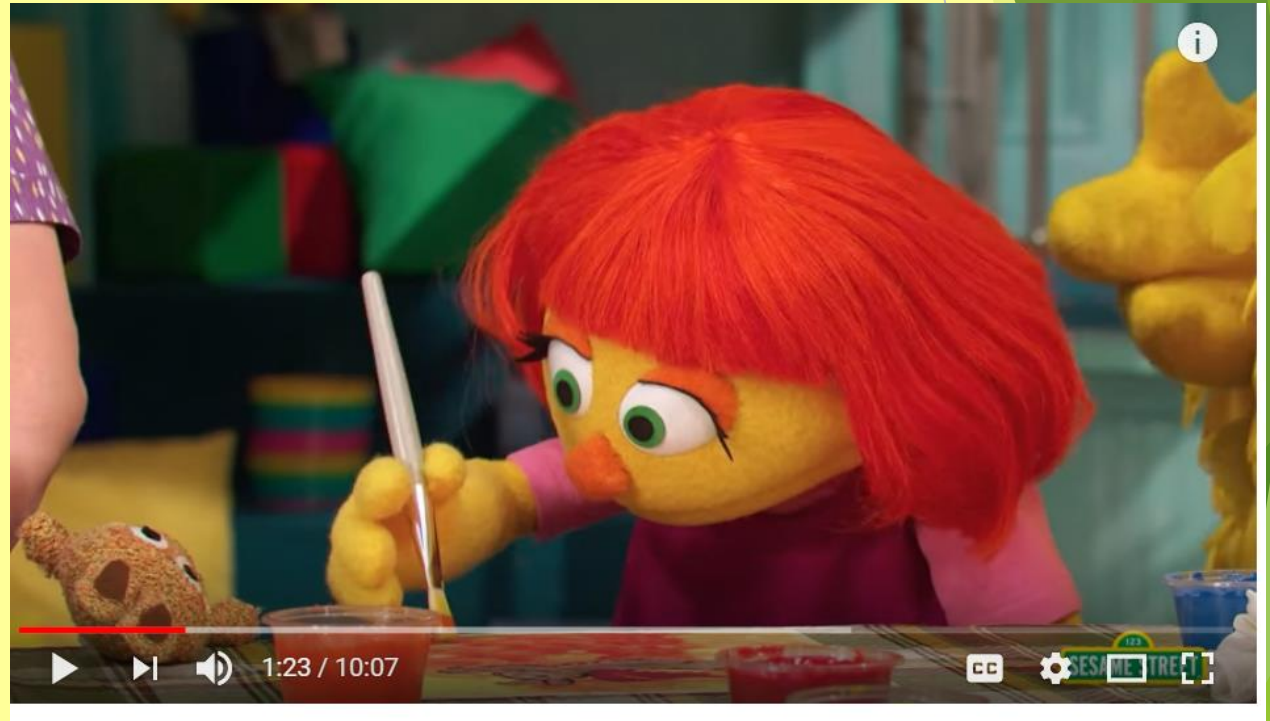
- ▶ Autism is a spectrum condition. All autistic people share certain difficulties, but being autistic will affect them in different ways.



Autism - Characteristics

- ▶ All people on the autism spectrum learn and develop. With the right sort of support, all can be helped to live a more fulfilling life of their own choosing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKCdV20zLMs>



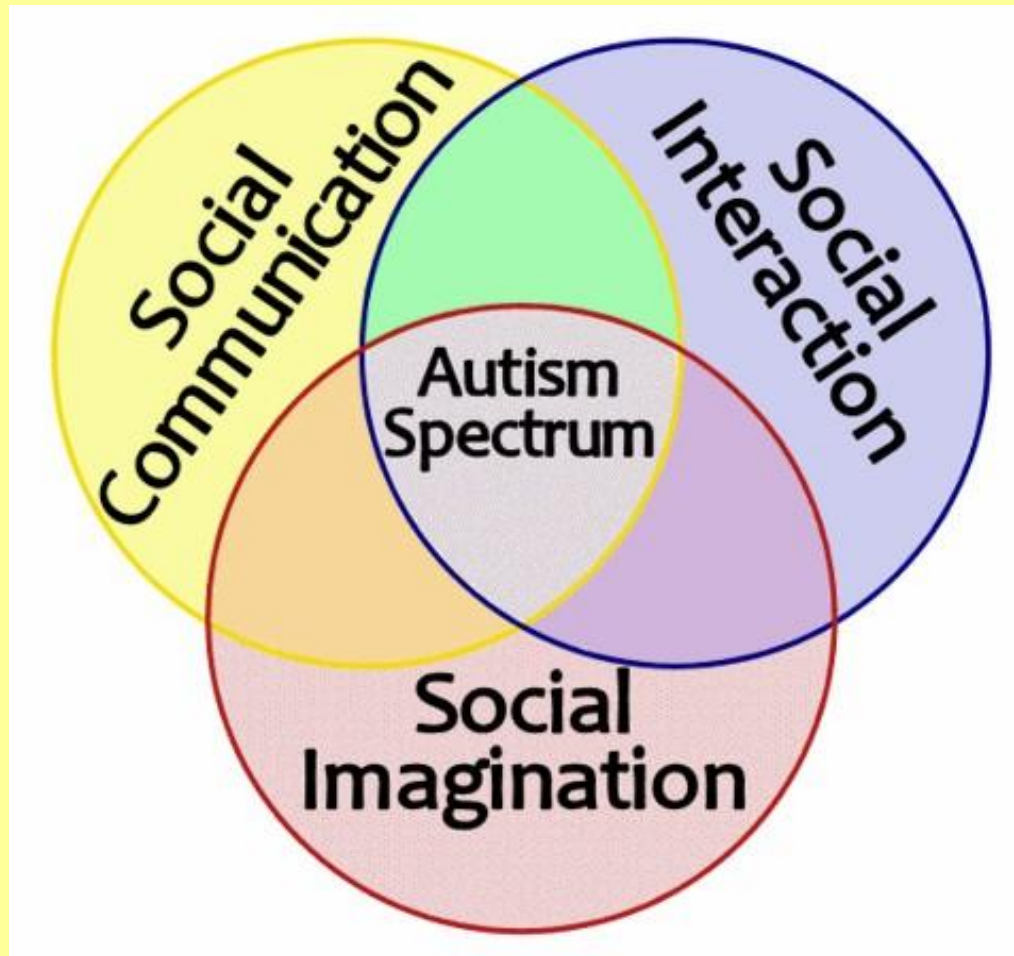
Autism - What does it feel like?



How does it feel to be autistic? - Too much information!



Triad of impairment



Characteristics: Social Communication difficulties



Characteristics: Difficulties with social interactions



Social anxiety

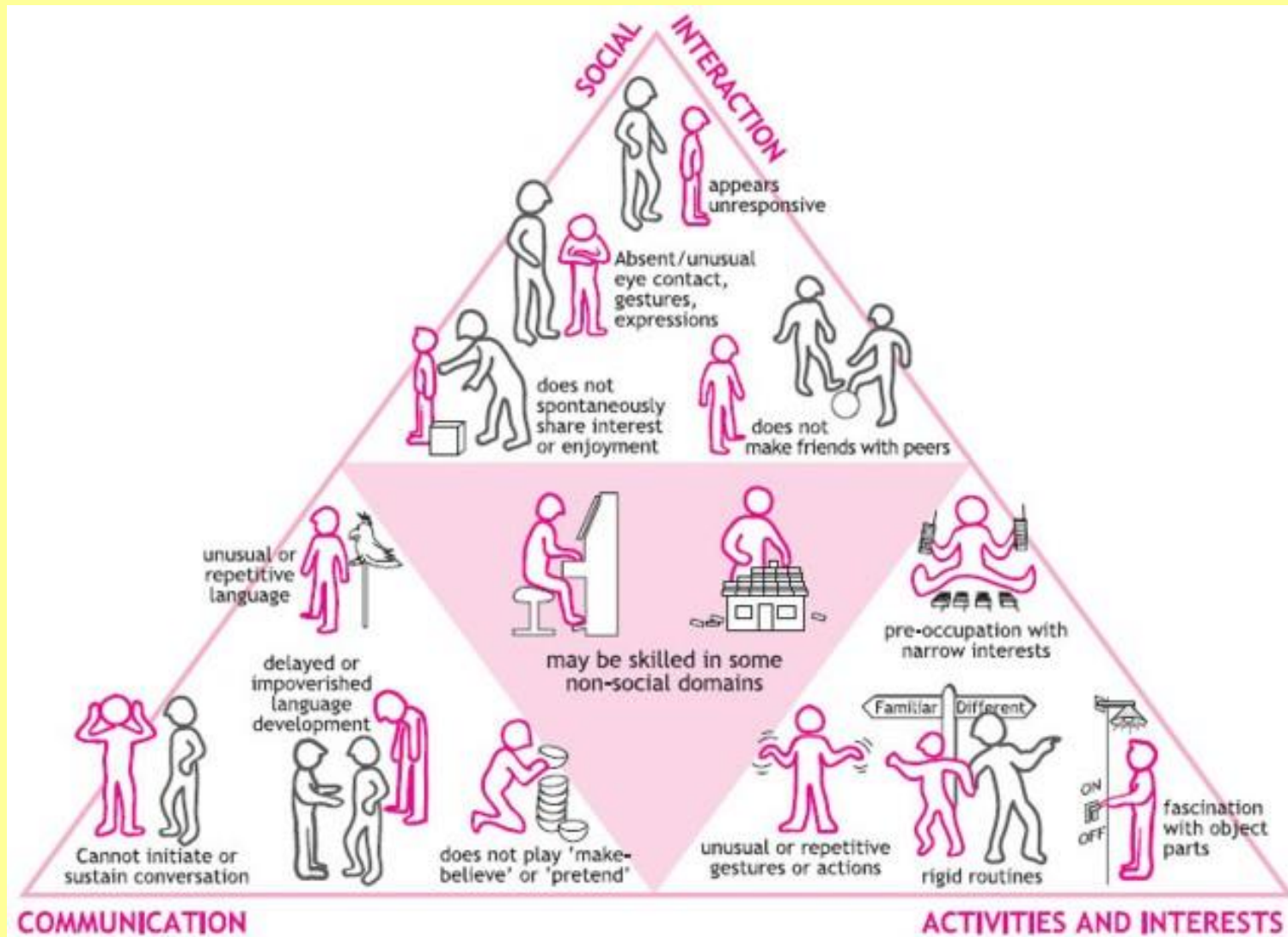
- ▶ It's not that children with autistic brains don't want to socialise, they often just don't know how to go about it.
- ▶ This can be a major source of anxiety for some children



Characteristics: Difficulties with social imagination



Commonly associated with:



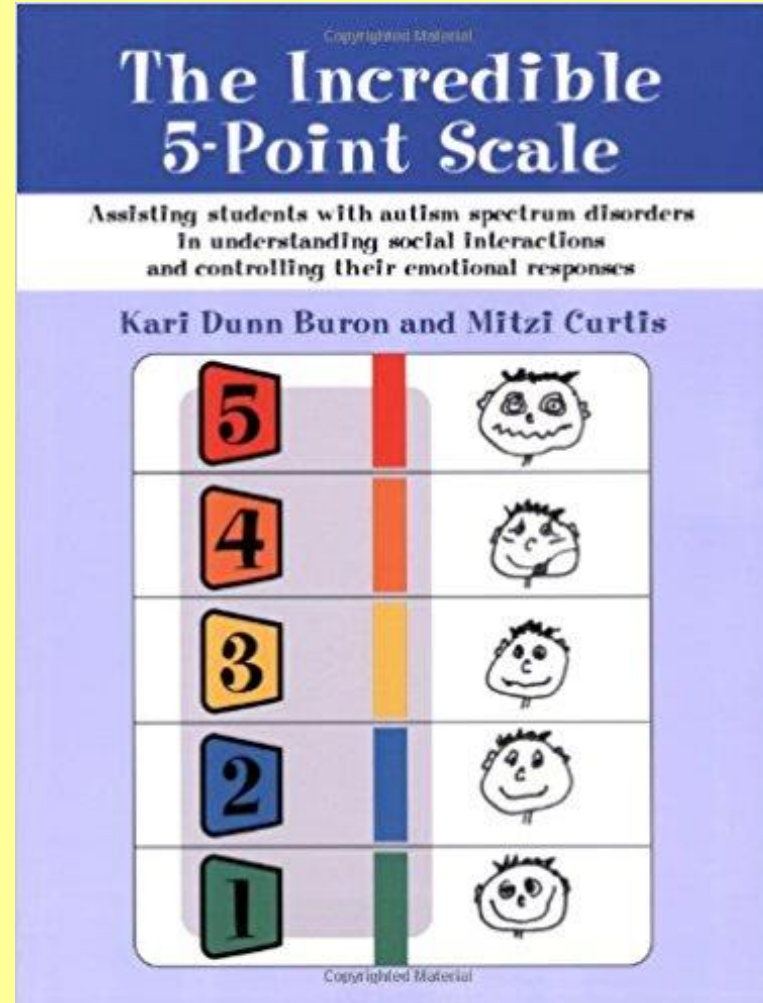
Managing the senses



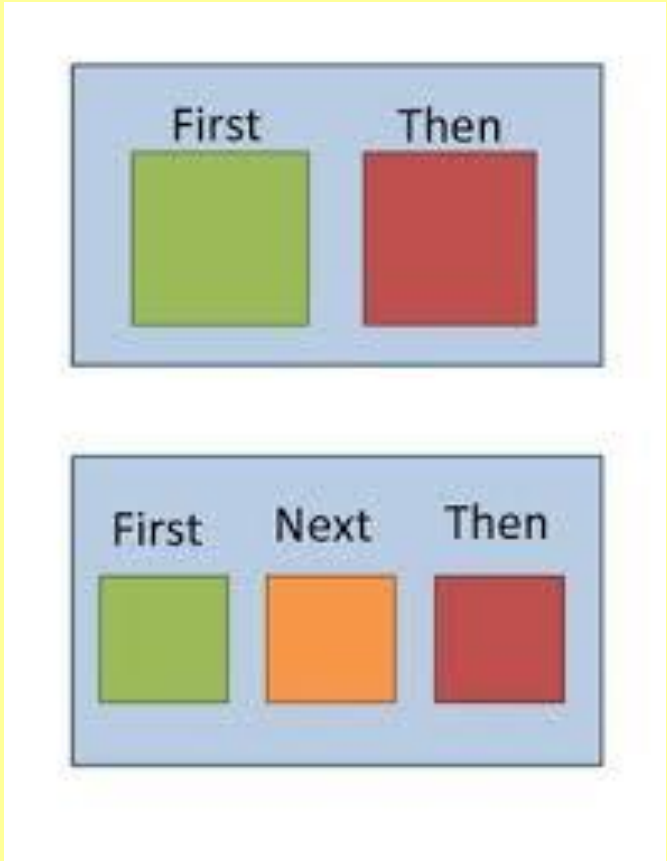
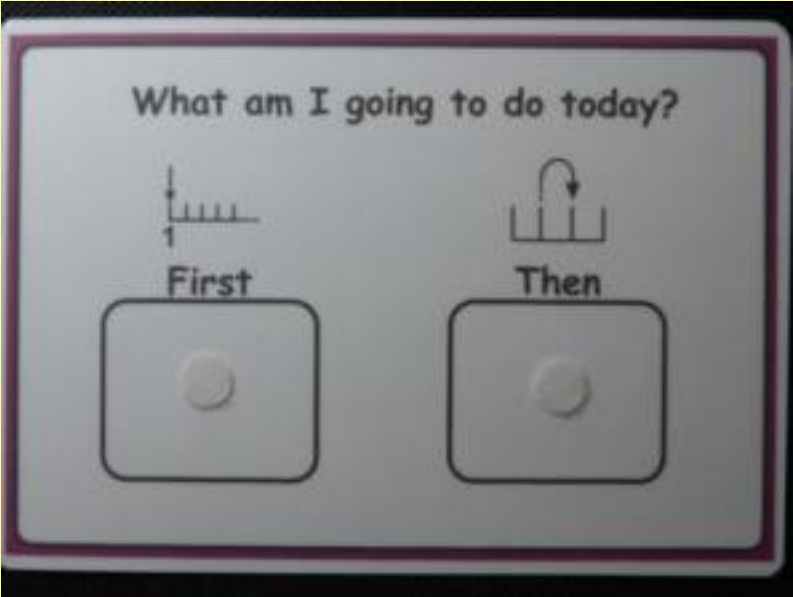
Meltdowns



Understanding emotions and how to manage them:



Unexpected changes



Unexpected changes



Processing time



Managing tasks

► Task board:

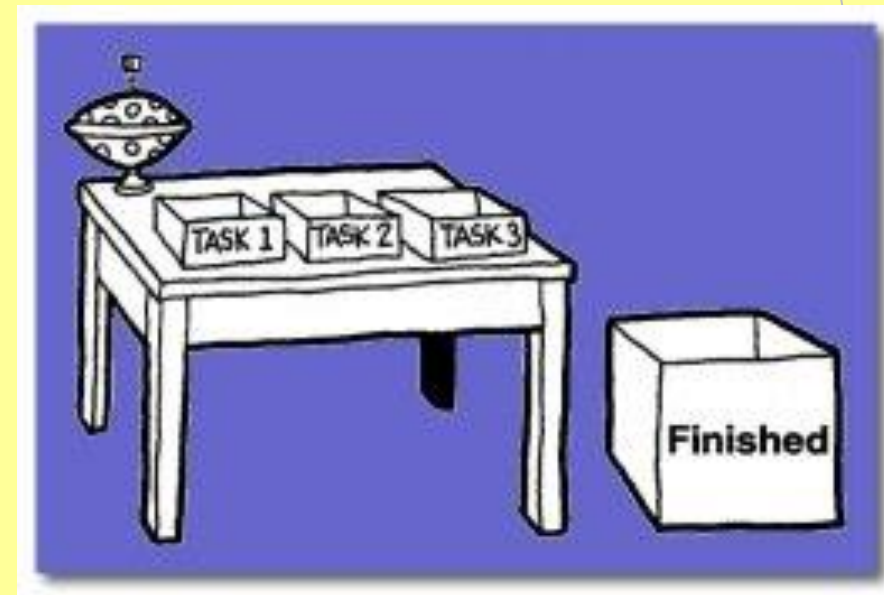
1. Listen to teacher
2. Write 3 sentences
3. Earn reward point



Managing tasks

TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication-Handicapped Children) style approach

- ▶ Helps with compliance
- ▶ Builds self-esteem
- ▶ Reduces anxiety - very predictable
- ▶ Can reinforce skills



Autistic children are a gift

- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD5pmHn_zlU



Useful websites:

- ▶ <http://www.autism.org.uk>
- ▶ www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk