



Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew

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- I am first and foremost a child.
- My sensory perceptions are disordered.
- Remember to distinguish between won't (I choose not to) and can't (I am not able to).
- I am a concrete thinker.
- Be patient with my limited vocabulary.
- Because language is so difficult for me, I am very visually oriented.
- Focus and build on what I can do rather than what I can't do.
- Help me with social interactions.
- Try to identify what triggers my meltdowns.
- If you are a family member, please love me unconditionally.
- Three words: Patience. Patience. Patience.

(adapted from *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew*
by Ellen Notbohm)

Early Indicators and the Displaying of Autistic Symptoms

(as found in William Stillman's *The Autism Answerbook*)

- Not responding, or appearing not to listen when you speak
- Spending time playing alone
- Echoing others' spoken words, or repeating the same words
- Using gestures to indicate a want, or pulling you to a want instead of using spoken language
- Bouts of intense expressions of frustration (i.e., tantrums)
- Not wanting to be touched or hugged
- Fleeting or no direct eye contact
- A need for consistency in schedules and routines
- Fascination with parts of toys instead of the toy itself
- No apparent understanding of personal safety or danger
- Physical movements (walking or picking things up) that may be inconsistent with typically developing peers
- Acute reactions to sensory sensitivities (sounds, tastes, sensation of fabrics)
- Not speaking in two-word phrases by two years of age
- Loss of language or learned skills at any age