

### Autism Awareness Week

October 7th-11th, 2019





### What is ASD?

- Spectrum disorder
- Social Communication Difficulties
- Focussed and RepetitiveBehaviours and Interests [Sensory Disorder]

### Social Communication

#### The Rules of Social Interaction

You are going to be talking about what you did this morning, before you went to school. However, you need to follow a few new social rules:

- 1. You cannot use a word that contains the letter "E"
- 2. Every time you use a verb (action word), you have to pat yourself on the back.
- 3. Every time you finish a sentence you have to use the word "over".
- 4. You have to refer to yourself in the third person (e.g. Mr Young got up and had granola with yoghurt).

### Social Communication

### Did you...

...have to think more about what you were going to say?

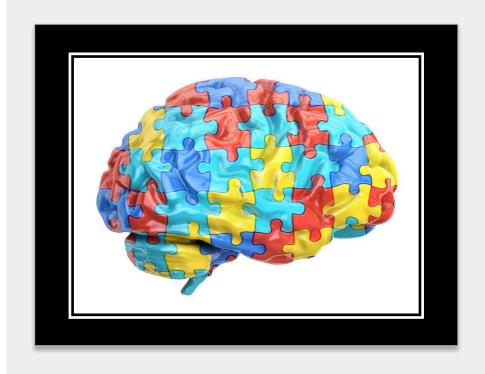
...feel more flustered or even overwhelmed?

...often say the wrong thing?

...feel like you just did not know what to say?

## Social Communication and ASD

- Social "rules" do not always make sense to someone with ASD
  - Taking turns
  - Implied meaning (Sarcasm)
  - Responding to emotions
  - Understanding facial expressions
  - Adjusting speech (for audience)



# Focussed and Repetitive Behaviours and Interests

- Highly focussed (intense) and limited interests
- Strictly following routines and schedules
- Repetitive behaviours
- Sensitivity to sights, sounds, smells and tastes (sensory overload)





### Sensory Overload

### "A Sensory Warzone"

- ASD can also lead to acute hypersensitivity to sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and to touch (i.e. the world dialled turned up to maximum).
- This difficulty can cause lead to:
  - Distractibility
  - Irritability
  - Stress and Anxiety
  - Avoidance



### **Awareness**

Why are we raising awareness?

To realise we are all different in many ways.

People with ASD have a different way of looking at the world.

And it is not always a weakness - in some situations it is even a strength.



"I have [ASD] and that means I'm sometimes a bit different from the norm. And - given the right circumstances - being different is a superpower"



- Form Time Activities (Wellbeing)
- Puzzle Pieces Wall (House)
- Lunchtime Activity (Sensory Overload Experience)



### Events next week...

October 7th-13th, 2019