



WHAT WE DO

promote inclusion of autistic people and disabled people in the conversations and decisions that affect our lives

build connections in the autistic community and foster a strong sense of autistic identity and pride

engage the SFU community in disability awareness, justice and advocacy

advocate for autistic people and disabled people and their needs in university

COME JOIN US!

We're planning fun and informative events:

All Brains Are Beautiful: A Look at Neurodiversity and Autism

Date: October 31st

Time: 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Location: Saywell Hall, Room 10051

+ Social Events (ex: movie night)

+Sensory Crafts!

autistic people, disabled people, + allies welcome!



@SFUAutistics

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WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a neurological variation that occurs in about one percent of the population and is classified as a developmental disability. Although it may be more common than previously thought, it is not a new condition and exists in all parts of the world, in both children and adults of all ages.

The terms “Autistic” and “autism spectrum” often are used to refer inclusively to people who have an official diagnosis on the autism spectrum or who self-identify with the Autistic community. While all Autistics are as unique as any other human beings, they share some characteristics typical of autism in common.

1. Different sensory experiences. Some examples include heightened sensitivity to light or hearing loud sounds as soft and soft sounds as loud.

2. Non-standard ways of learning and approaching problem solving. For example, learning “difficult” tasks (e.g. calculus) before “simple” tasks, or being simultaneously gifted at tasks requiring fluid intelligence and intellectually disabled at tasks requiring verbal skills.

3. Deeply focused thinking and passionate interests in specific subjects. “Narrow but deep,” these “special interests” could be anything from mathematics to ballet,, to doorknobs, to physics, to politics to bits of shiny paper.

4. Atypical, sometimes repetitive, movement. This includes “stereotyped” and “self-stimulatory” behavior such as rocking or flapping, or difficulties with motor skills and motor planning associated with apraxia or dyspraxia.

5. Need for consistency, routine, and order. (ex: holidays may be experienced more with anxiety than pleasure, as they mean the disruption of the

usual order of things). People on the autistic spectrum may take great pleasure in organizing and arranging items.

6. Difficulties in understanding and expressing language as used in typical communication, both verbal and non-verbal. This may manifest similarly to semantic-pragmatic language disorder. As adults, people with an autism spectrum diagnosis often continue to struggle to use language to explain their emotions and internal state, and to articulate concepts (which is not to say they do not experience and understand these).

7. Difficulties in understanding and expressing typical social interaction. For example, preferring parallel interaction, having delayed responses to social stimulus, or behaving in an “inappropriate” manner to the norms of a given social context (for example, not saying “hi” immediately after another person says “hi”).

Autism is diagnosed based on observation by a diagnostician or team of diagnosticians (e.g. neuropsychologist, psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed clinical social worker, etc.).