Taken from full content theory: [Autism Skill Tutor GRV](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ole2RrNISLHZmBheafPXf2QG-YJWr4QDVLrZv8z3cHI/edit#)

# Terms

**Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**

A type of therapy focusing on improving behaviors and skills, currently one of the most common forms of autism therapy (Palestra, De Carolis and Esposito 2017).

**Asperger’s Syndrome**

A form of functional ASD, typical traits include impaired social skills, obsessive interest(s), impaired motor development, and a strict adherence to routine.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) / Autism Disorder**

A developmental disorder that has a large range of intensity that can impair communication, social development, motor skills, and mental development.

**Autistic-Confidence**

The level of comfort and acceptance of the individual with their identity as a person with autism.

**Functioning Autism / High-Functioning Autism (HFA)**

Autism that does not exhibit an intellectual disability, allowing for the person to function and live independently.

**Hyperfocus**

The process of being so intensely focused that they are unable to process anything outside of the area of focus. This can include both physical and emotional feelings, and the world around them.

**Masking / Camouflaging / Adaptive Morphing**

The practice of a person with autism suppressing behaviors identified as “autistic” and performing behaviors to attempt to present as neurotypical.

**Neurodivergant**

Someone who has a mental disorder or mental illness.

**Neurotypical**

Someone who does not have a mental disorder or a mental illness, the ‘typical’ brain.

**Non-Functioning Autism / Low-Functioning Autism (LFA)**

Unable to live independently, autism has had a highly debilitating effect on the person and needs assistance.

**Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)**

Mild symptoms/traits of autism or may not have all signs of autism and includes the subtypes of autism that do not fall under Asperger’s Syndrome or Autistic Disorder.

**Sensory Sensitivity / Sensory Processing Sensitivity**

Some sensory stimuli have heightened processing. This can affect any of the five senses and can be overwhelming and painful, leading to sensory overload.

**Special Interest/Fixation**

The area of interest of a person with autism in which they are fixated on. It is usually a hobby in which the person has a very deep focus on, to the point that it may appear obsessive.

**Treatment**

Treatment, in the context of this content theory, is the development of skills or practices that make living with a disability easier. Is not an indicator that this content theory proposes a cure or way to get rid of the symptoms/traits of ASD.

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