|  |
| --- |
| Myths & Facts *| Source: Autism Resource Centre (Singapore), www.autism.org.sg* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Myths** | **Facts** | | Individuals with autism spectrum disorder appear to avoid social contact. | Individuals with autism spectrum disorder are often keen to make friends but, due to their disability, find this difficult. | | Individuals with autism spectrum disorder cannot lead independent and successful lives | Given appropriate education, many students with autism spectrum disorder will grow up to be successful contributors to society. | | Autism is the result of bad parenting. | Research suggests that autism can be caused by a variety of conditions that affect brain development. There is no clinical evidence that parental behaviour can cause or contribute to the development of autism. | | All individuals with autism spectrum disorder have special talent or 'savant' skills. | 10% of individuals with autism spectrum disorder may have special abilities in areas like music, art, mathematical calculations, memory and manual dexterity. The majority however, may have areas of high performance that relate to their special interests or obsessions. These skills are often referred to as 'splinter skills', as they are often not consistent with skills in other areas of development. | | Autism can be cured. | There is currently no documented cure for autism. Individuals with autism respond very well to structured early intervention, education and vocational placements that focus on the unique learning style of students with autism. | | People with autism do not make eye contact. | Contrary to popular belief, many people with autism do make eye contact on their own terms. When they feel relaxed and confident with the communication partner, eye contact can be quite spontaneous. It is NEVER a good idea to force a person with autism to have eye contact with you. | | People with autism cannot talk. | Communication is more than talking. Some students with autism will develop speech seemingly effortlessly, but will require help to communicate appropriately with their peers. Others will require assistance to communicate their basic needs and wants, using a combination of words, gestures, and augmentative communication systems such as PECS. | | Autism can be outgrown. | Children do not 'outgrow' autism but symptoms may lessen or change as the child develops and receives educational interventions. | | People with autism do not have feelings and thus are unable to show affection. | People with autism can and do give affection. However, due to differences in sensory processing and social understanding, the display of affection may appear different from typical people. Understanding and acceptance of these differences is the key. | |