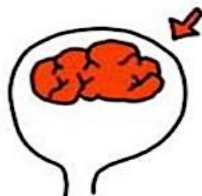


# AUTiSM?

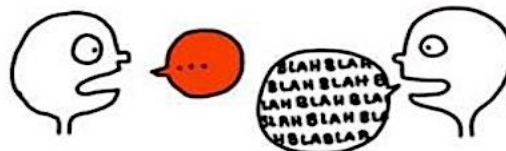
Everyone is different. Some differences are easy to see.



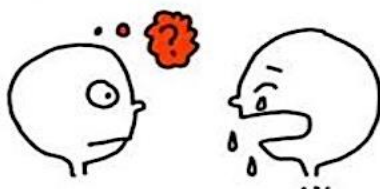
Others are less visible, like autism, which is a difference in how the brain works.



Autistic people express themselves differently. Some of them don't talk much; others don't talk at all, and some talk all the time.



**Autistic people can have trouble decoding other people's emotions...**



...or trouble expressing their own emotions like other people.



Some autistic people can find it easy to learn very complicated things...



...or they can have trouble doing simple things, like small talk.



**They can have intense interests and passions that we may find surprising.**



They can also have intense fears  
that we may find difficult to  
understand.



**Autistic people sometimes display behaviors that are unique and surprising...**



But it doesn't prevent them from having interesting lives and creating beautiful things.



**Autistic people deserve to be loved and respected, just like everyone else.**



©Elise Gravel

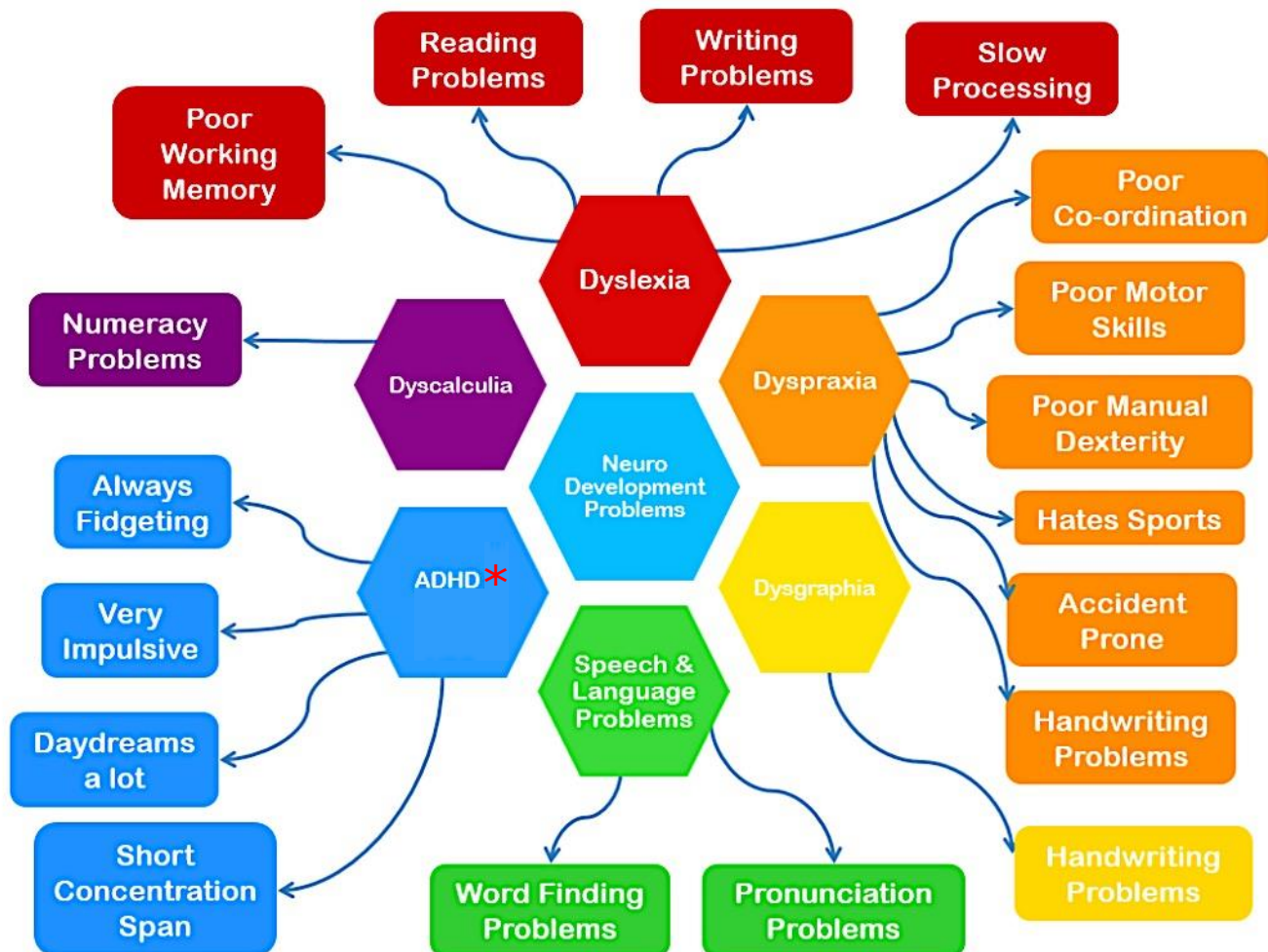
Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by difficulties with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 54 children in the United States today. We know that there is not one autism but many subtypes, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. The ways in which people with autism learn, think and problem-solve can range from highly skilled to severely challenged. Some people with ASD may require significant support in their daily lives (levels 2 and 3), while others may need less support and, in some cases, live entirely independently (level 1).



# LEARNING DISABILITIES

Everyone has heard of dyslexia, but perhaps most people are less familiar with the terms dyspraxia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia, which are also specific learning difficulties...

So, what do all these terms mean?



Dyscalculia	Dyspraxia	Dysgraphia	Dyslexia
A specific learning disability in math. Kids with dyscalculia may have difficulty understanding number-related concepts or using symbols or functions needed for success in mathematics.	Sometimes called developmental coordination disorder. Kids with dyspraxia may have difficulty planning and performing tasks that require fine motor skills, such as writing, tying shoelaces or using buttons or zippers.	A specific learning disability in writing. Kids with dysgraphia may have difficulty writing legibly and at age-appropriate speed. Many children with dysgraphia also struggle to put their thoughts down on paper.	A specific learning disability in reading. Kids with dyslexia have trouble reading accurately and fluently. They may also have trouble with reading comprehension, spelling and writing.

\* Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder