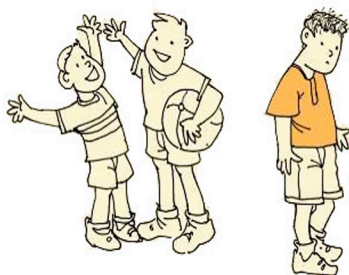




Can flap his hands
in funny way



Difficulties to play
with children



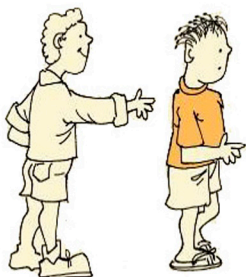
Can be in constant motion



Enjoys spinning objects



Can cry or have tantrum



Look unfriendly
but really doesn't know
what to do



Sometimes doesn't like
to be hugged or touched



Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism – being different

Spectrum – like a rainbow of
colours

Disorder – unpredictable, chaos
behaviour



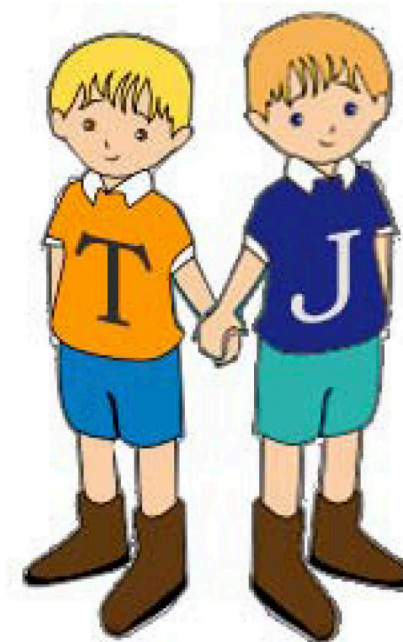
**Being different is pretty cool – be
different and make friends with
autism!**



www.autismfor-us.org

Jack and Tom are friends

Can you spot the difference?

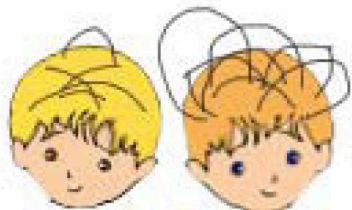


Jack has blonde hair and blue eyes
Tom has blonde hair and brown eyes and
Autism – but that is hard to see

Autism

Means that he was born different – it
doesn't mean he is sick or he will be
fixed – it means that he will do things in
a different way

**Jack's brain is connected with many wires. Tom's, not so many
That makes it harder for Tom to do some things like listen, look and talk all at the same time**



**Jack and Tom are friends and know each other well
Knowing others makes it easier to understand them
Like Jack knows that when Tom gets upset is because he struggles to say what he means and often people cannot understand what he wants**

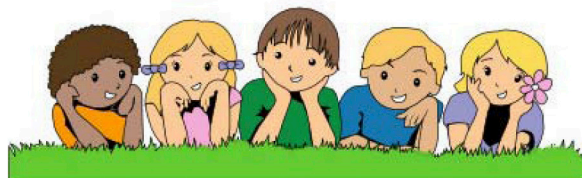


He uses these little picture cards to point at what he wants

Choose a friend and try to ask him/her for something without using words - you can use hands, face expressions, make funny noises, point at things, draw pictures or write
This may be fun to start with - it's not so nice when you don't have a picture for everything you want or cannot share how you feel.

What it means to be different?

If we were all the same it would be so boring
Difference means that we are all good at something else
For instance Kate is a good dancer, Jack can do tricks on his bike and Tom is good at climbing



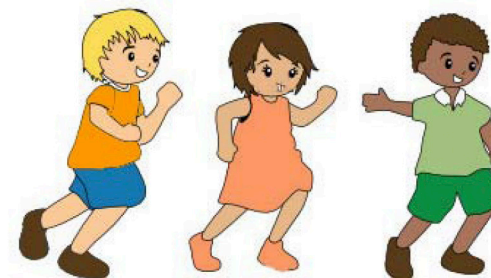
Even people with autism are different from each other

What it means to have Special Needs?

I need a new Play station - but I can live without it!
Tom needs help with the toilet and eating - when I can do it myself

He also needs someone like Teaching Assistant to translate/talk for him - I can talk all on my own

Having Autism, makes it hard for Tom to talk, not being able to talk makes it harder to make friends. Even when Tom likes someone he may not say so, but he may smile and follow you around to show that he likes you.



What can you do to have a special friend?

Use the universal language - **smile!**
Jack says that Tom's first language is 'show me'
That means he has to show him what they are going to do next - instead of just saying it.

