



Disability Awareness: Autism Spectrum Disorder

5th Grade

Objectives

01

Understand

We can name characteristics of Autism.

02

Appreciate

We can appreciate how it might feel for someone with Autism.

03

Include

We can include people with different abilities.

04

Connect

We can explain how Autism impacts others and ourselves.



01

Understand

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?



Autism

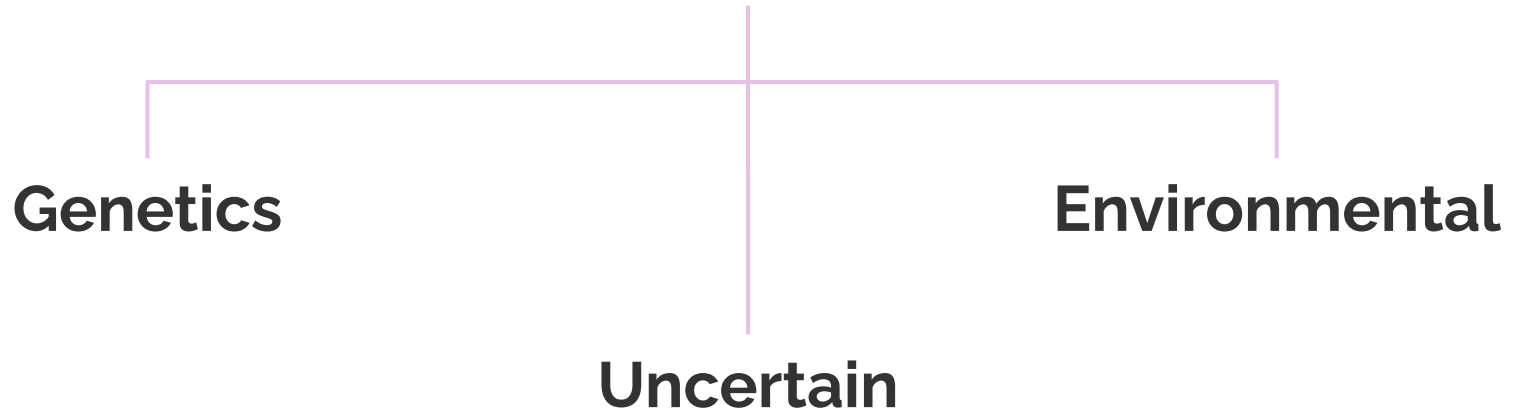
Autism is a developmental condition that affects how individuals think, communicate, and interact with others.



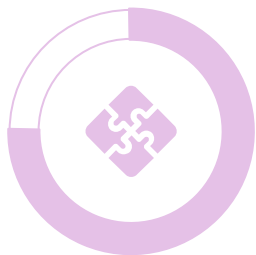
Spectrum

Autism is on a spectrum, meaning that each individual has unique levels of abilities and challenges.

What Causes Autism?



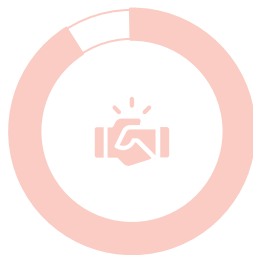
Autism by the Numbers



2.8%

Children

This means 1 out of every 36 children in the United States have Autism.



4

Average Age

The average age of diagnosis is 4 years old, but can be as early as 18 months.



4X

Boys

Boys are 4 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls.

Characteristics of Autism



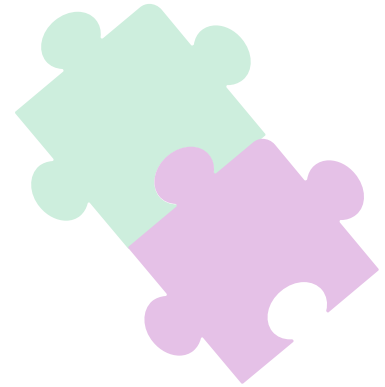
Communication



Sensory



Social





02 Appreciate

What's it like to have Autism?





**You Learn, Then
Teach Us!**



01
People with Autism
May Have Very Good
Hearing



02

**People with Autism
May Notice Many,
Many Details**



03

**People with Autism
Like When Things are
Routine**



**People with Autism
May Like to Play in
Different Ways Than
You**



05 **People with Autism May Have Difficulty Speaking**



06

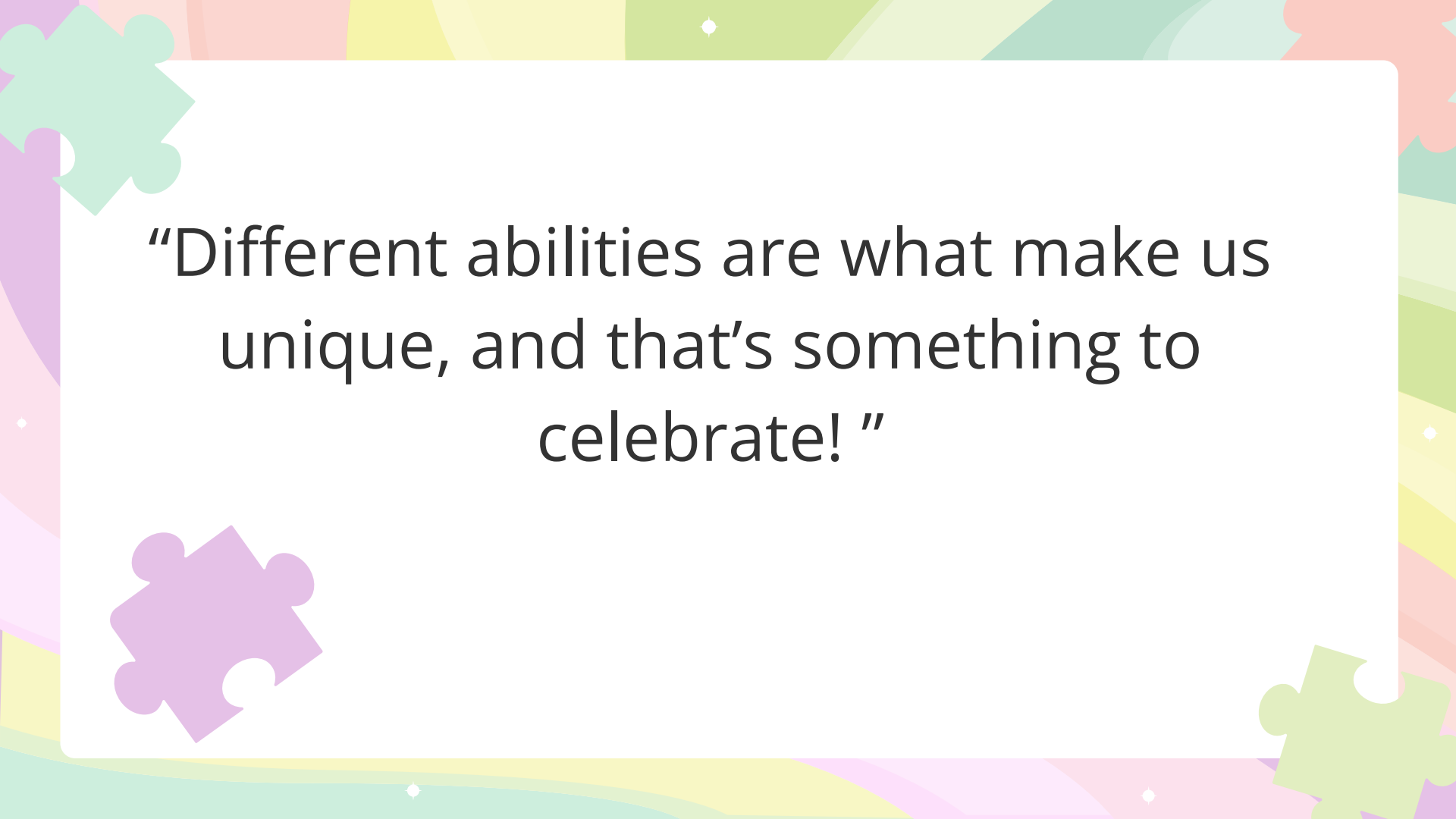
**People with Autism May
Not Understand the Way
You Use Certain Words**



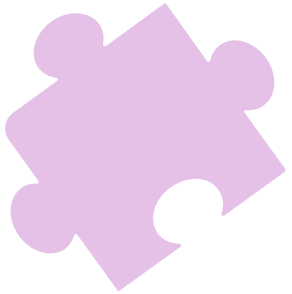
07
**People with Autism May
Have Difficulty
Understanding Nonverbal
Communication**



**People with Autism
May Feel Touch
Differently Than You
Do**



“Different abilities are what make us unique, and that’s something to celebrate! ”



03 Include

Communication Tips

01	Individuals with Autism might avoid eye contact when talking to people. For some, it might feel overwhelming so they look at something else while you are speaking.
02	Call the person by name to make sure they know you are talking to them, then speak clearly and calmly.
03	Be patient, give them space, and time if they seem upset. Talking or invading their space can be very overwhelming.
04	Expressions can be confusing to some individuals with Autism. If they seem confused, try saying it a different way.
05	Drawing, using pictures, or showing what you are talking about can help them understand more fully.

Supportive and inclusive friendships

01

Peer support

If your friend becomes upset, give them space and time. Being patient helps everyone.

02

Shared experiences

Play a game with specific and simple rules. If they do not understand, showing can help.

03

Empowering connections

Find out what they like, and ask if you can join them. You can learn so much from others!

04

Creating Space and Time

You can enjoy an activity and your friend can enjoy an activity near each other. Time together is special regardless of activity.

How Can I Include Others?

Specials Events



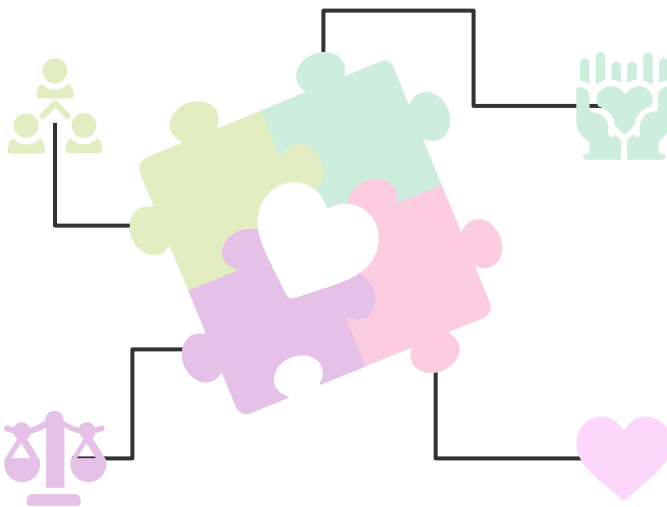
Recess Game



Group Work



Lunch Conversation





04
Connect



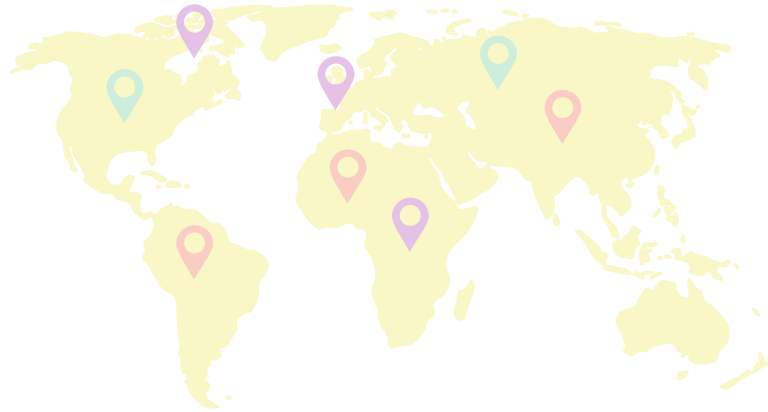
Career Connection

Name some careers that might support someone with Autism.

Career Connection



The Impact of Autism



Friendships



How could Autism impact friendship?

School

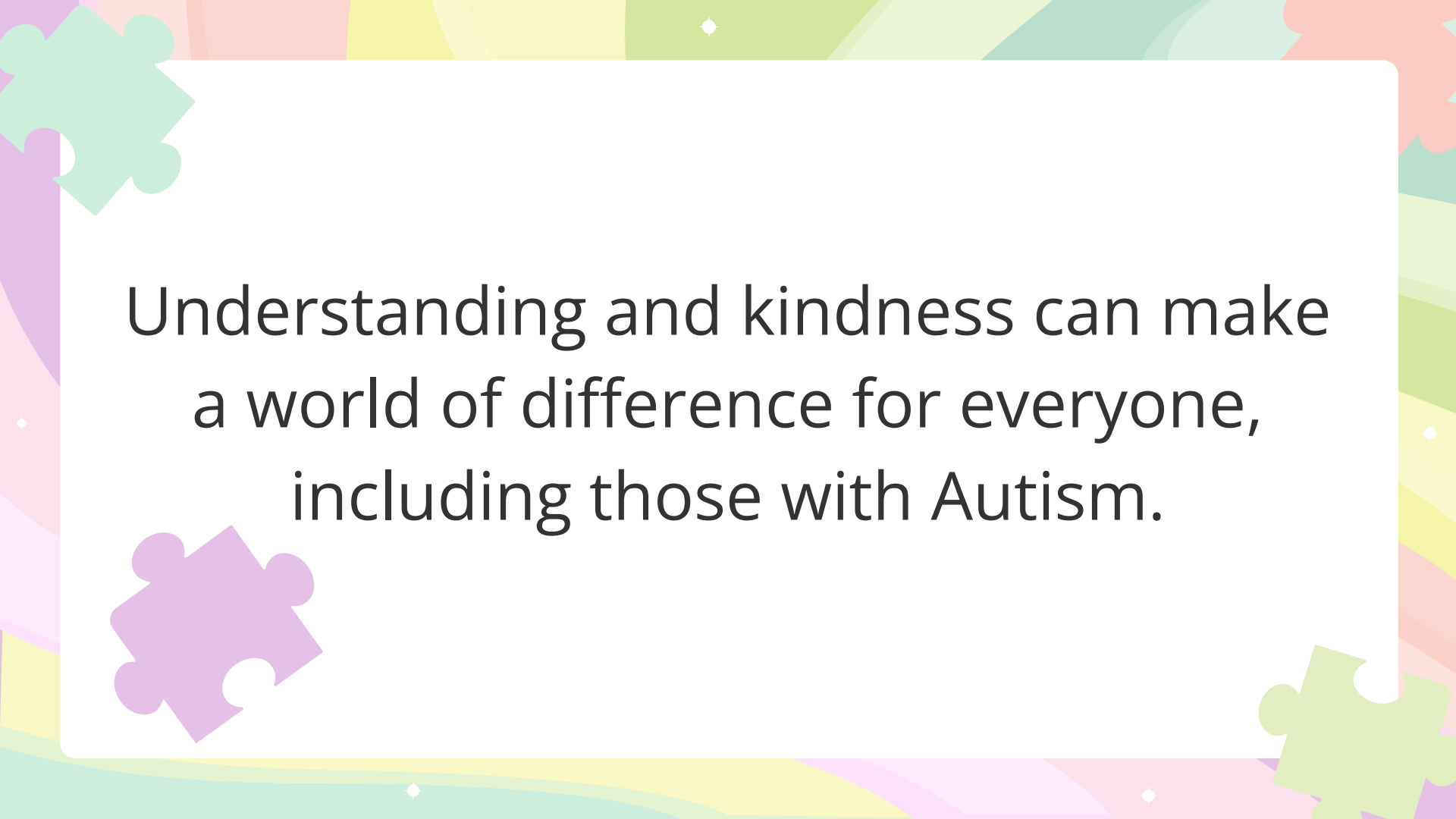


How could Autism impact us at school?

Career



How could Autism impact a career?



Understanding and kindness can make
a world of difference for everyone,
including those with Autism.

