

## Understanding the Needs for Children with Autism

Here are a few tips for parents, guardians, teachers and friends alike.

### Visuals are Key

Give lots of visual cues to back up the information you are sharing.



### Engage with Them

Joint attention is a must! This happens when two people are paying attention to the same thing.



### Eye Contact can be Hard

Even if they are not looking directly at you, they could still be listening.



### Less is More

Sometimes words get lost in the air. Use short and direct language.



### Abstract Language is Very Difficult

Thinking is concrete and literal. Idioms, sarcasm and joking are confusing and can be misunderstood.



### Have I Lost Them? Are they Still Focused?

If you hear them repeating what was just said or reciting lines from a movie or commercial, this usually indicates they don't understand what is being said to them.



### Smile and be Accepting of Verbal Noises

If you are unsure of a noise that they have made, even if it catches you off-guard, just smile. They understand smiles. Being quiet is difficult for them. Learn to be accepting of this.



### Be Understanding of Use of Digital Devices

A child with Autism may need an iPad or headphones in public places so that his/her family can participate in functions and attend appointments.

