



# Supporting a Learner with Autism

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# Aim

TO HELP YOU TO SUPPORT A  
LEARNER WITH AUTISM, (THIS IS  
ALSO REFERRED TO AS AUTISTIC  
SPECTRUM DISORDER)

# Objectives

- To provide you with a definition of what Autism is.
- For you to be able to identify 4 common traits associated with autism
- For you to identify 2 strategies that will help you to support a learner with autism



What do you  
think autism  
is?

## Definition

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others.

- It is not an illness or disease
- Often people feel being autistic is a fundamental aspect of their identity.
- Autism is a spectrum condition.
- All people with autism share certain difficulties, but being autistic will affect them in different ways.
- All people on the autistic spectrum learn and develop - with the right sort of support.

# In groups, identify some common Autistic traits

## **Sensory differences**

- Sound
- Sight
- Taste
- Touch

## **Obsession, repetition and routine**

- Dislike of changes to routines
- Rituals

## **Anxiety**

- Losing patience
- Always thinking about the worst outcome
- Difficulty concentrating

## **Organising and sequences**

- Processing information
- Predicting outcomes of actions
- Understanding the concept of time

# Managing/ supporting Learners with autism in the Classroom/ learning environment— top tips

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See behaviours as a communication

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Be patient and realistic

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Be consistent

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Consider the environment

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Help identify the emotions

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Praise and reward

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Manage transitions and change

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Offer a safe space

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Build in relaxation

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# Summary

- In pairs, answer the following questions:
  - What is autism
  - Identify 2 traits often associated with autism
  - Identify 2 copying strategies that may help you in a classroom/learning environment to support a student with an Autistic spectrum disorder
- In groups, discuss how will you use this in Driver education?