

**People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may display the following characteristics in varying degrees:**



Unusual responses to sensory experiences



May have special interests



Difficulty in understanding how their behaviour affects others



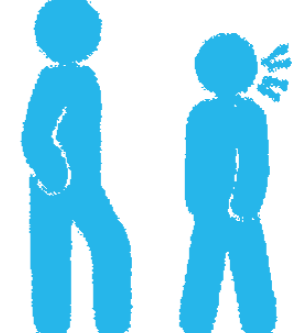
May have a literal understanding of what people say



May be unsure of how to join in with others and make friends



May engage in challenging behaviour



Differences in using and understanding nonverbal communication and body language



May use repetitive body movements



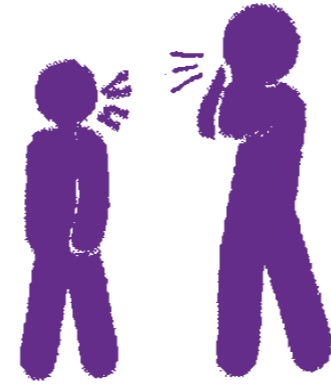
Ability to be extremely focused when working on preferred activity



Fascination with parts of objects or with repetitive movements



Differences in speech, language development and content



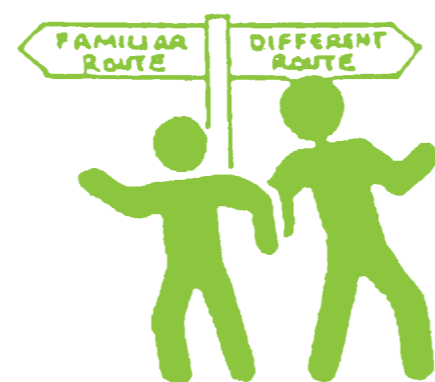
Difficulty initiating or sustaining a conversation



May prefer to play alone or have difficulty interacting with others



Differences in the development of play activities, particularly imaginative play



May find change and transition difficult, feel secure in following same rules and routines

# Autism Spectrum Disorder is...

a condition that affects the development of an individual across their lifespan. Early diagnosis is beneficial: having their needs recognised and understood will assist the individual with ASD to build lifelong skills.

For further information about Autism Spectrum Disorder call the Autism SA infoline on 1300 AUTISM (1300 288 476) or visit [www.autismsa.org.au](http://www.autismsa.org.au)

