



IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY

Primary School Autism Acceptance Resources





Book Resources

Story Books / Short Novels:

'Nope. Never. Not For Me!' – Samantha Cotterill

A storybook for younger readers exploring sensory issues with food/taste.

'I See Things Differently' – Pat Thomas

A picture-book to help neurotypical children understand autism.

'Why Johnny Doesn't Flap' – Clay & Gail Morton. Alex Merry, Jessica Kingsley

A storybook for younger autistic readers explaining why neurotypical people act the way they do.

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin' – Julia Finley-Mosca, Daniel Rieley

An illustrated picture book telling the story of Temple Grandin's achievements, not in spite of her autism, but because of it.

'Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes' – Jennifer Elder, Marc Thomas, Jessica Kingsley

An illustrated picture book about people on the spectrum who achieved great things, but experienced challenges socially.

'A Boy Called Bat' – Elana K. Arnold, Charles Santoso, Harper Collins

A short novel about an autistic boy and his friendship with a pet skunk.

'Forever Neverland' – Susan Adrian

A short novel about an autistic boy who gets to go to Neverland.

'Super Lexi' – Emma Lesko, Adam Windsor

A short novel about autism, anxiety and school. (7+)

Let's Go To School - Amanda Mc Guinness

A story created for Neurodivergent children going to school for the first time.

Available on: Lets Go To School - Cogs The Brain Shop

Jessica Kingsley Publishers has an autism specific section on their website with books for children of all ages. - <http://www.jkp.com/jkpblog/category/autism>



Learning Activities

Spot the Difference

The students look at pictures of two different people and list their similarities and differences. This can be done in pairs/small groups/as a whole class.

Variation – list similarities and differences between oneself and a partner.

People Hunt

The students collect signatures from others who have a particular difference (speak a different language, have a special talent, have a specific interest etc.) The students then discuss new learnings about each other.

My Thoughts in Pictures

The students draw a picture of themselves and 3 or 4 of their current thoughts – this helps to understand what visual thinking or 'thinking in pictures' means.

Autism Mind Map

The students will create a mind map, with everything they know about Autism. This can be done in pairs, in small groups or as a whole class. The teacher will take note of any misconceptions to be addressed.

Learning Activities

Sensory Activities

The students complete a series of sensory activities to help them understand what it is like to have sensory differences:

- Reading a list of words in different colour on a timer
- Tracing activity using a periscope/binoculars
- Listening to instructions when background noise is louder than speaker - Use computer game - <http://13.95.219.190:8080/Index.html>
- Opening a small sweet while wearing XL gardening gloves
- Feely bag – guessing what an item is by its texture
- Smelling different scents while blindfolded and guessing what they are

Research Famous Autistic People

The students can research and engage in project work on a number of famous autistic people, such as (but not limited to):

- Temple Grandin & the Farming Industry
- Greta Thunberg & Climate Action
- Satoshi Tajiri & Pokemon

Autistic Students Share Their School Experience

Invite current or past pupils to share their experience of school. This could be read over the intercom or via a video / recording clip.

Special Interest Day

Students work on and create a presentation on their area of special interest. The presentation of topic can take any format.

Learning Activities

Our School's Got Talent

The students can engage with a talent show which celebrates all talents and gives the opportunity for students to show different kinds of talents.

New Skills Day

The students learn a new and challenging skill together.

Artwork Day

Students can communicate their feelings or experiences through art, as a means to understanding that communication is not just talking.

Contact a Local Autism Support Group

Invite your local Autism Support Group to give a talk in your school (via Zoom/Skype etc.) about their activities and see if there are volunteer opportunities. A list of Autism Support groups can be found on the AsIAm website.

Fundraising Ideas:

This is a list of suggested socially distanced fundraisers and is by no means definitive – feel free to get creative!

- Non-uniform day
- Art exhibition
- Online Table quiz (children/parents)
- Readathon
- Spelling Bee
- Funky feet day
- Crazy hair day



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Video Resources

Alexander Amelines; 'Amazing Things Happen' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo>

AsIAm; 'I Can Communicate!' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cbDr6tbOQg>

AsIAm; 'That's My Voice!' –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S86W3HZ1_mk

AsIAm; 'Learn My Language' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsSN9LrqdAA>

AsIAm; 'Remember I Can Hear You' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJeZpkGWJQ4>

AsIAm; 'I Like Options Too' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aau13ZuVP8U&t=2s>

AsIAm; 'Don't Judge Me' –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX-qp7-H0FU>



Online Resources For Teachers

AsIAm - Website

www.AsIAm.ie

AsIAm - Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AsIAmIreland>

Little Puddins - Website

www.littlepuddins.ie

Unicef- Website

<https://www.unicef.ie/>



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Book Resources For Teachers

What works for Autistic Children

Author: Dr Luke Beardon

The Predictive Brain

Author: Dr Peter Vermeulen

Nurturing Your Autistic Young Person

Author: Cathy Wassell

Uniquely Human

Author: Dr Barry M. Prizant

Autism

Author: Sue Fletcher-Watson & Francesca Happé

Unmasking Autism

Author: Dr Devon Price



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