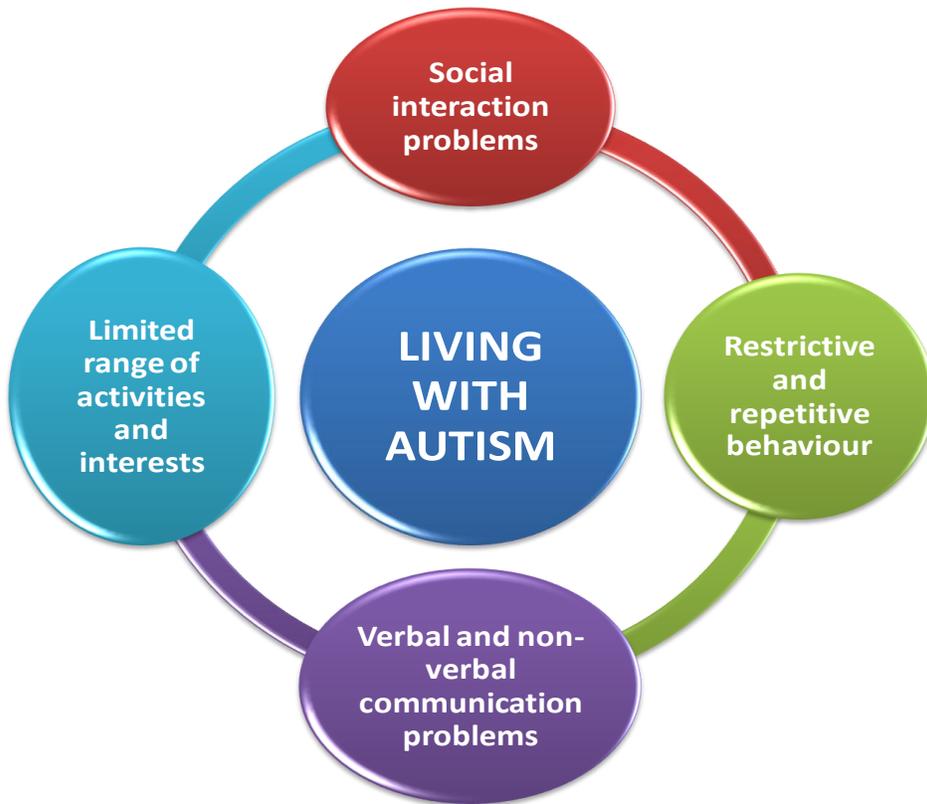


WORLD AUTISM DAY

02 April 2015



Autism and
Work: Together
we can!

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT AUTISM?

1. What is Down Autism?

Autism is a developmental disorder of the brain functions that prevents a person from organizing and understanding information.

This disorder is characterized by difficulties in social interactions and communication with restricted and repetitive interests and activities.

Clinical studies have shown that autism affects around 1 in every 150 children.

Autism is a neurological and biological disorder, not a psychological or emotional condition.

2. What causes Autism?

Scientific evidence suggests that various factors, both genetic and environmental, contribute to the onset of autism disorder by influencing early brain development.

3. How is Autism diagnosed?

A diagnosis of Autism is difficult before the age of 12 months. Reliable diagnosis is preferred by the age of 2 years. Often parents are the first to notice that their child is showing unusual behaviours.



4. Characteristics of people with Autism

- Strong visual skills
- Long term memory skills and strong interest in mathematics, technology, music and art
- Adherence to rules
- Intense concentration and focus
- Difficulty understanding language, gestures and social cues
- Limited or no speech
- Limited or no eye contact
- Difficulty participating in social interactions
- Intense interest in unusual topics or objects
- Inappropriate response or non response to sounds
- Preference to be alone
- Repetitive behaviours
- Abnormal fears and or lack of appropriate fear for real dangers
- Difficulty managing transitions, changes in routine, stress and frustration.

5. Physical and medical issues that may accompany Autism

- Seizure disorder
- Tic disorder
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Mental health disorders (anxiety, depression, mood disorders)
- Sleep problems
- Pica: Eating disorder involving eating things that are not food
- Poor nutrition
- High rates of accidents and injuries due to the lack of fear for real dangers.

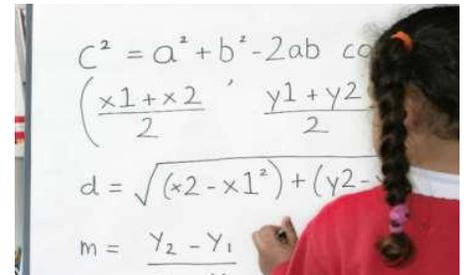


6. Helping children with Autism

Parents play an essential role in providing support to their autistic children. They can help to ensure access to health services and education, and offer the care and affection needed as the child grows up.

Communication with children with autism can be difficult. It is very important to speak calmly, use direct short phrases, allow extra time for the child to respond and avoid touching.

In Ghana, there are institutions for children with special needs that can provide specialized education and supporting therapies to children with autism.



Early specialized education and therapies are the best treatment for people with autism. Sometimes, they show exceptional skills and talents.

Unfortunately, 76 to 90% of adults with autism are unemployed. Actually, education and employment can enable them to overcome the social exclusion that they often face, taking more active roles in their communities, rather than being dependant on family.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP PEOPLE WITH AUTISM!