

Supporting Our Autistic Scholars



Examining Our Views of Autism

TRADITIONAL	UPDATED
Autism is a serious neurological abnormality, and should be cured.	Autism is a neurological difference. Brain scans show distinctions in the ways that autistic and non-autistic brains receive and process information. Being autistic is part of who a person is and not something that can be changed or grown out of.
Most people with autism have an intellectual disability.	Current research shows that over two thirds of autistic people <u>do not</u> have learning disabilities or learning difficulties. However, many autistic people do have learning differences – a different way of processing information.
Autism mostly happens to white males.	White males are more likely to be <u>diagnosed</u> with autism. This is perpetuated by diagnostic criteria that has historically prioritized the white, male experience. Women and people of color often go undiagnosed specifically because of social pressures that force them to mask their autistic traits. Families of color also face decreased access to supports and delayed receipt of interventions.
Autistic people are either high-functioning or low-functioning.	Some autistic people may be able to fit in better with neurotypical society, but this does not make them less autistic. It may even cause them to receive less support than they require. It’s best to acknowledge that all autistic people have different support needs at different times.

How can we continue to support our autistic scholars with research-based supports?

References

Andy, J. (June 2021). Myth Busting: Language Around Autism. Your D+I Blog. <https://yourdandi.co.uk/myth-busting-language-around-autism/>
Fairer Scotland. (Dec 2021). Autism Myth Busting. <https://differentminds.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LOW-5023-Smarts-Autism-Myth-Busting-booklet-White-spreads.pdf>
National Education Association. (2020). National Education Association Guide to Teaching Students with Autism. Washington DC; NEA.
Roos, C. (April 2022). Busting Myths About Autism. ALSC Blog. <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2022/04/what-library-staff-need-to-know-about-autism/>