Being a friend to a kid with autism is one of the best things you can do to help them. You can learn many things from your friend with autism too!

**Does autism ever go away?**

A kid with autism will have it their whole life. As they grow, they will learn things like reading, math, and spelling that will help them. They will grow up to have jobs, be neighbors, and need friends, just like you.

In the United States about 400,000 people have autism - that's enough people to fill six football stadiums. There are many more people who have autism all over the world. More boys than girls have it. They can be poor, rich, white, black, red, or brown.

The most important thing to remember is that kids with autism are JUST KIDS!
Common Questions

What is Autism?
Autism is a disability a kid has from the moment they are born. A kid with autism looks the same as you and me, but autism changes the way their brain works.

How do kids get autism?
Nobody knows what causes autism. Doctors and scientists are trying to figure it out. They do know that you cannot catch autism from anyone. A kid usually has it when they are born.

What is a Kid with Autism Like?
Kids with autism are the same as other kids in lots of ways. They like the same things as you, like birthdays, swimming, and going to Disney World.

Sometimes kids with autism have a hard time learning things and they can't speak very clearly. They make noises and sounds because they can't tell you the words they want to say. Sometimes they will say the same words or sounds over and over because it's hard for them to stop. Just because a kid with autism can't speak doesn't mean they can't hear and understand what you say. Kids with autism do some things differently than other kids, but they like to have friends and do fun things even if they can't tell you they do.

How can I be a friend to a kid with autism?
At school kids with autism may need a friend or buddy to help them. You can be a friend by:

- Playing games they like to play
- Being kind and patient
- Sitting next to them in class
- Visiting them at their home
- Inviting them to your house to play.