What Autism Means, And What It Doesn’t Mean

Many people have autism. Autism means many things, but there is one thing it never means.

This is a photo of Stephanie having fun. She has a very big smile. To Stephanie, autism means that she sometimes needs help to work and play with other children.

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These are photos of Alex at school. He’s wearing his favorite white shirt! To Alex, autism means that he goes to Mrs. VanDyne’s group.
A diagnosis of autism never means what someone is going to choose to say or do next. That, of course, is up to the person. It’s up to Stephanie. It’s up to Alex. Because…
…autism isn't Stephanie. And autism isn't Alex.