

What Autism Means, And What It Doesn't Mean

Many people are diagnosed with autism. What it means to have autism depends upon many things. Most important, it depends upon the person who has autism. And, there is one thing that a diagnosis of autism never means.

A diagnosis is made after gathering a lot of information. It is an opinion about what is causing a person to feel sick or have difficulty. A diagnosis of autism is one of many diagnoses.



That's Stephanie in the lower left hand corner of the photo. To Stephanie, the diagnosis of autism means that she needs help and practice to work and play with others, and to make friends.

That's Alex in the photo at right, wearing the white shirt. To Alex, the diagnosis of autism means that he goes to Mrs. VanDyne's group. It also means that Alex records his favorite television show that airs at the same time.



© Carol Gray, 2013. Exclusive and restricted permission is hereby granted to print the Stories and activities in The Social Story Sampler for use with an individual or small group in a home, educational or clinical setting. May not be copied or used in presentation, or for financial gain. All other rights and restrictions apply.



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.





