

That's what
friends do!



Make Friends with Autism



Everybody sees
exactly what they please
from just one point of view.
That's just what people do.

If someone in your neighborhood, school, or work has autism, learn more about it.

The library and internet have information about autism.

All you have to do is ask! Once you know more, you'll understand more.

It will be easier to talk, have fun, and make friends.

But if you seek to find
the common ties that bind,

then you will
come to see...

I'm just like you.
That's what friends do.



Every person is unique. You have interests and hobbies.

A person with autism does, too.

He or she may talk or act a little differently.

But once you get to know him or her, you'll see you have many things in common!

Open the door. Let me in.
Reach out your hand.
Such a simple, simple thing.



Getting together with friends is fun!

Welcome a person with autism to join your activities.

Enjoy the things that make each of your friends special.



Open your eyes.
Look and see.
In every way,
we're the same as same can be.

A person with autism looks the same as any other person.
Take the time to get to know him or her on the inside.
You'll find that he or she enjoys having friends and people
who care, just like you.

Open your mind. Let it run free.
Get to know me.
It's as easy as one, two, three.



Sometimes it's difficult for a person with autism to understand situations.

Be patient and take the time to try to understand what he or she is thinking.

You might find a different way of thinking about the same situation.



Open your heart.
That's the key.
Under your skin,
you're so very, very much like me.

Everyone has feelings. We all express them differently.

A person with autism may have trouble understanding your feelings or may seem to express emotions in a way that is different from what you are used to.

Your friend with autism really does feel friendship and love.

Let him or her know you care.

Take the time to see
that if you look behind my different-ness,
there will be a reflection sharp and clear
of all the hopes and dreams
you hold so dear...



After you spend some time with friends with autism, you will get to know how they act and express themselves.

Before you know it, you will no longer see the differences, but the ways you are the same.

You'll begin to enjoy each other's company.



Open the door. Open your eyes.
Open your heart and mind.
And you will find, to no surprise that...

How do you like to be treated by your friends?
Your friend with autism may feel different or excluded.
So, be a friend!
Help him or her feel welcome and included.



Everybody sees exactly what they please
from just one point of view.
That's just what people do.

Try to overlook some of the things that may seem different
or odd.

A person with autism does not realize he or she is acting
differently.

These behaviors may provide comfort or help to handle
challenging situations.

Let them know that you like them just the way they are!

So when you come to find
the common ties that bind,
then you will finally see I'm just like you...



That's what friends do.

A person with autism may not know how to talk, act appropriately, or understand the rules of a game.

Find special ways to communicate and to change activities or games so that everyone can be included and have fun!



Everybody sees exactly what they please
from just one point of view.
That's just what people do.

Other people may make fun of a person with autism.

Show them that understanding and including everyone
is the right thing to do.

It's just a matter of getting to know a person's personality,
and overlooking some behaviors.



But if you seek to find
the common ties that bind,
then you will come to see I'm just like you...

Often, when something makes you feel uncomfortable, you avoid doing it.

There may be many things that are uncomfortable for a person with autism.

Spend time to work through your challenges together.

You'll start to see the world in a whole new way!



That's what friends do !

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Through a partnership with Kohl's Cares, Children's Specialized Hospital is improving access to care for children with special health care needs.

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