



# AUTISM COMMUNICATION CONNECTION

Communication Tips and  
Recommendations for Engaging  
Someone with Autism  
Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

## ATTENTION

- Use the person's name at the beginning, so it's clear you are addressing them.
- Help the person feel comfortable by talking about a special interest or topic.
- Be aware of your environment. A noisy, crowded room may make communication difficult.

## QUESTIONS

- Give a longer window to respond to a question.
- Don't ask too many questions.
- Keep them short and close-ended.
- Offer options or choices.
- Be specific—e.g. "What did you order for lunch?" instead of "How was your lunch?"

## BODY LANGUAGE

- Don't rely on non-verbal cues, such as eye contact, gestures, and tone of voice.
- Many with ASD report eye contact as difficult and uncomfortable.

## VERBAL COMMUNICATION

- Use concise sentences to prevent word overload.
- Pause between ideas.
- Be literal. Avoid irony, sarcasm, figures of speech, or exaggerations.
- Explaining something complex? Write it out, make a visual, or number the topics.



# ASERT

*bringing autism resources together.*

PAautism.org

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**877-231-4244**

## LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

This information guide was developed by the Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative (ASERT). For more information, please call ASERT at **877-231-4244** or **info@PAautism.org**.

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