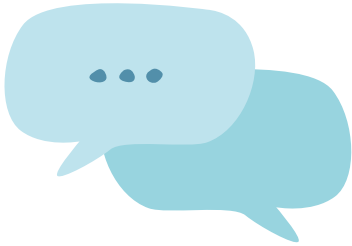


Communication Tips & Recommendations for Engaging Someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

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 response window to a question
- Don't ask too many questions
- Keep them short and close-ended
- Offer options or choices
- Be specific: "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 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

