

London Has Autism

FOR CHILDREN

1 What is autism?

Autism is something a person is born with that affects how their brain works. It can make the way they communicate, play, learn, or react to sounds, lights, or changes different from other people. Everyone with autism is unique and has their own strengths and challenges.

2 How would you treat a classmate who is like London?

Treat them with kindness, patience, and respect. Include them in games and activities, be a good friend, and remember that everyone likes to be accepted for who they are.

3 What would you do if one of your friends here at school was seen trying to do something dangerous that might hurt themselves?

Stay calm and tell a trusted adult, such as your teacher, right away. Adults know how to help keep everyone safe.

4 How would you react if someone was having trouble keeping their lunch down at school?

Be caring and don't laugh or make fun of them. Give them space if they need it and tell a teacher so they can get help.

5 What would you say if someone was being unkind to a classmate with autism?

You could say, "Please be kind. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect." If the bullying continues, tell a teacher or another trusted adult.

FOR PARENTS

1 Do you know someone at school that has autism and acts like London?

Every child with autism is different. Talk with your child about classmates who may learn, communicate, or behave differently, while respecting everyone's privacy.

2 Have you seen a classmate with autism get upset or overwhelmed? What happened?

Children with autism can become overwhelmed by loud noises, changes in routine, or too much activity. Encourage your child to share what they observed without judging the classmate.

3 How did you or others help in the above situation?

Classmates can help by staying calm, giving space when needed, and being understanding. Adults may help by providing a quiet place, speaking calmly, or giving the child time to settle.

4 What do you like about spending time with someone with autism?

Children with autism often have unique interests, are honest, creative, caring, and can make wonderful friends. Every friendship is special in its own way.

5 Have you noticed anything unique or interesting about the way a person with autism plays, talks, or learns?

Some children may have amazing memories, enjoy certain hobbies deeply, notice details others miss, or learn best in different ways. Differences make our classrooms stronger.

FOR TEACHERS**1 Explore your thoughts about a child with autism: Do I hold any assumptions about what a child with autism can and cannot do?**

Reflect on whether expectations are based on the individual student rather than stereotypes. Every child has unique strengths, interests, and abilities.

2 How open am I to learning more about autism and how it presents differently in each student?

Autism is a spectrum, meaning every student experiences it differently. Remaining curious and committed to learning benefits both students and educators.

3 Have I received training on autism, and if not, what do I need to learn?

Consider professional development in communication strategies, sensory needs, behavior supports, executive functioning, and inclusive instructional practices.

4 How do I adapt my teaching to support students with autism?

Use clear expectations, visual supports, predictable routines, flexible instruction, sensory accommodations when appropriate, and positive reinforcement while recognizing each student's individual needs.

5 Is my classroom a safe and welcoming place for neurodiverse learners?

Create a culture where differences are respected, bullying is addressed immediately, and every student feels valued, included, and capable of success.
