

## Suggested Reading

Out Of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes by Jennifer Elder

Autism Solutions by Dr. Ricki Robinson

Strange Son by Portia Iverson

Point to Happy: For Children on the Autism Spectrum by Miriam Smith and Afton Fraser

W O O D S M A L L  
LAW GROUP

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EXCEPTIONAL LAWYERS  
for EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

2600 Mission Street, Suite 200  
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How to be a

good friend

to a person with autism.

Presented by

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## The Do's and Please Don'ts of "How to be a good friend to a person with autism"

### DO...

- ... say hello, even if the individual doesn't respond
- ... make eye contact with the individual, just as you would with any one else
- ... show compassion
- ... be patient and give them time to process information
- ... be supportive during difficult times
- ... understand/learn about their sensitivities, strengths, and weaknesses

### PLEASE DONT...

- ... ignore their presence
- ... talk about their symptoms in their presence; they can hear and understand
- ... get too close to their bodily space
- ... judge their behaviors or reactions to situations
- ... treat them any differently than you would anyone else
- ... ignore their communicative intent, whether a gesture or verbalization

## About Autism

Autism is a developmental disorder. It affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 54 boys. Many children with autism may not appear to have a disability. You may not know they are affected until they act or react in a way that seems different. Many of their symptoms are related to their behavior, social skills, and/or ability to communicate. Children and adults with autism are intelligent, loving persons with thoughts and feelings. Their bodies react in a way that they cannot always control. Their behaviors are often a direct result of their struggle to convey their thoughts and requests to those around them.

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