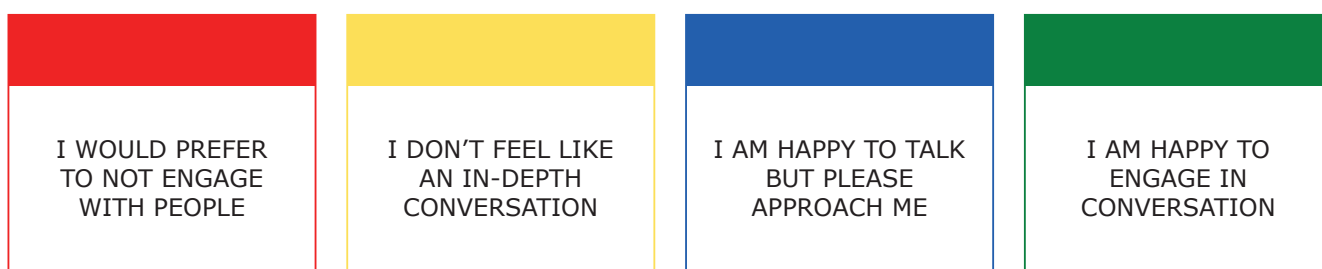


AUTISM FRIENDLY EVENT GUIDELINE

STICKER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

This system allows you to visually represent your communication preferences. Please place the sticker on your nametag. Feel free to change your sticker throughout the event as you need. Please be sure to observe a person's sticker before speaking to them.



THINGS TO NOTE

Perfumes and deodorants. Perfumes and heavily fragrant deodorants should not be used as some people are hyper-sensitive to smell;

Permission to touch. Many people are uncomfortable with being touched and/or hugged therefore permission to touch should be sought;

Eye contact. For many autistic people, eye contact is not necessary for engagement, and can actually detract from concentration and focus on the presented material. This is a very individual practice and varies considerably but is worth noting;

Getting an audience's attention. Raising a hand/hands when audience silence is required. This provides a visual cue and reduces the need for the speaker to raise their voice. As each person notices raised hands, they raise their own hand until the room is silent. This has the added benefit of providing a clear transition from discussion time to listening;

Silent applause. Due to the auditory sensitivity of many autistic people, non-auditory clapping is sometimes preferred. This is accomplished by raising the hands to head height or higher and twisting the wrists rapidly back and fourth (NZSL sign for applause).

Source: Gatfield, O., Hall, G., Isaacs, K. & Mahony, J. (2018) Guidelines for Creating Autistic Inclusive Environments. Brisbane: Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism.
