

What to Expect From Your Autistic Child

Your child learns at their own pace.

Some skills and milestones will turn up faster than you expect, some will be slower. Usually they will catch up to their peers in their own time, but if you can tell they're frustrated by not being able to do something like talk or walk, consider getting professional help.

Your child will communicate differently.

A common misconception about autistic children is that they don't communicate, or are stuck in their own world. In reality, their natural communication and body language is just different. They'll learn how to communicate in a way you understand, and you'll need to work on understanding them, and communicating on their level.

Your autistic child will find joy in unexpected places.

Many autistic children have some sort of special interest - sometimes a skill like computer programming or music; sometimes a specific topic like aircraft, politics, or *Star Wars*; sometimes collecting items like coins, dolls, or stones. Encouraging and getting involved with a special interest like this is a great way to connect with your child.

Your child may never be able to do some things that most people can do - and that's ok!

Some autistic adults can't talk, some can't go to the supermarket without having a meltdown, some can't use the toilet. That's what assisted communication, grocery delivery, and adult diapers are for. The most important skills your child can learn are how to know where their strengths and difficulties lie, and how to work around the difficulties.