



IRELAND'S
AUTISM
CHARITY

Dublin World's 1st Autism- Friendly Capital City

Adam Harris
6th November
2023

Introducing AsIAM – Ireland's Autism



AUTISM I.D. CARD

Name:

Date of Birth:

Valid To:

ID. Number:

AS IAM .IE
www.asiam.ie



What is Autism?

Definition:

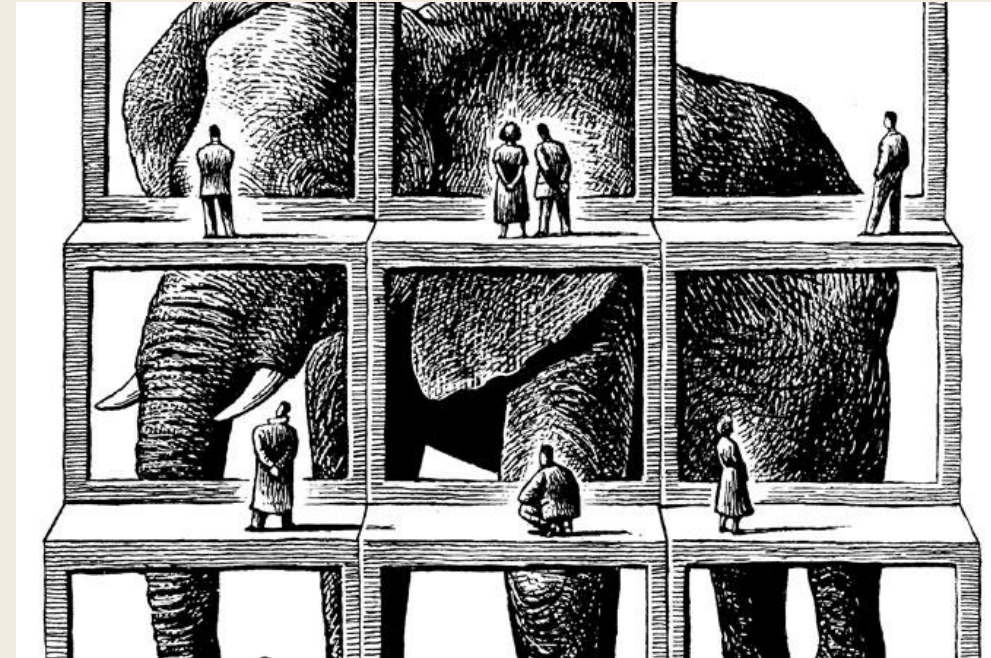
“Autism is a lifelong developmental differences which relates to how a person communicates and interacts with others and how they experience the world around them”

Key Facts:

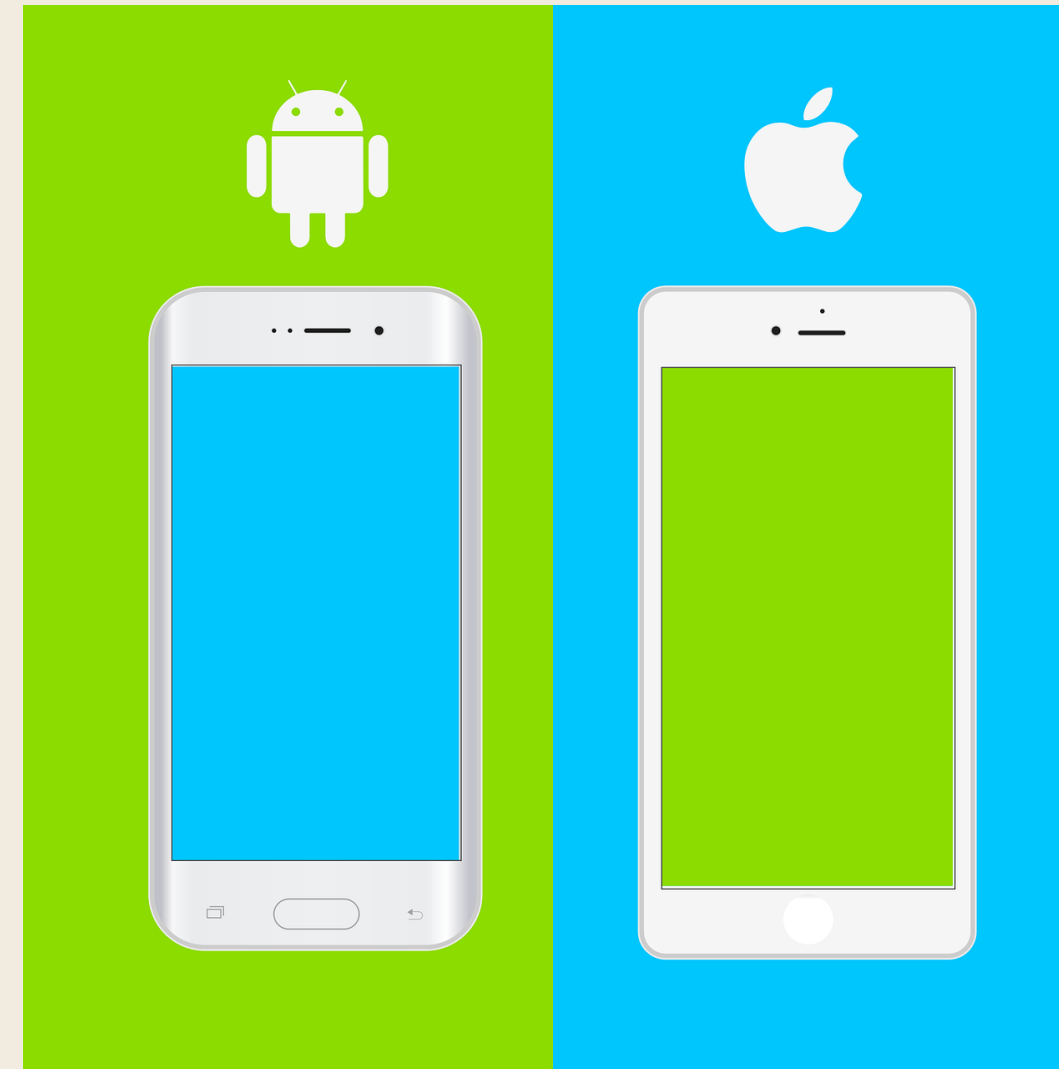
- Autism is a spectrum – this means no two people have the same needs, experiences or strengths
- Scattered skillsets
- At least 3.38% of people in Ireland
- Often co-occurring with other neurodivergences or disabilities
- Differences in communication
- Differences in predictability
- Differences in sensory processing
- Autistic people face barriers in the community which others do not even see. These barriers often mean that Autistic people do not enjoy the same chance to live, work and play in their community

How do we talk about difference?

- Neuroaffirmative
- Neurodiversity vs Neurodivergent
- Rights-based
- Person centered
- Identity-first language
- Strengths based language
- Is our day-to-day language respectful of disabled people?
- Awareness vs understanding and acceptance
- Symbols and colours matter



Autism as an accessibility barrier



Same Chance Report 2023

91% believed being Autistic was a barrier to gaining acceptance or making friends

38% believe that have experience discrimination in the last 12 months on the grounds of being Autistic

39% do not feel safe and protected in their community

Communication



Predictability & Control

Autism and the Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly is working towards making its building accessible for people with autism and achieving an Autism Access Award. See below for more information:



Supported by

SuperValu

Developed by



The Dining room is beside the Bar. Breakfast and dinner are served here.



Breakfast is a buffet. I can pick what I would like to eat. There are lots of different food to choose from.



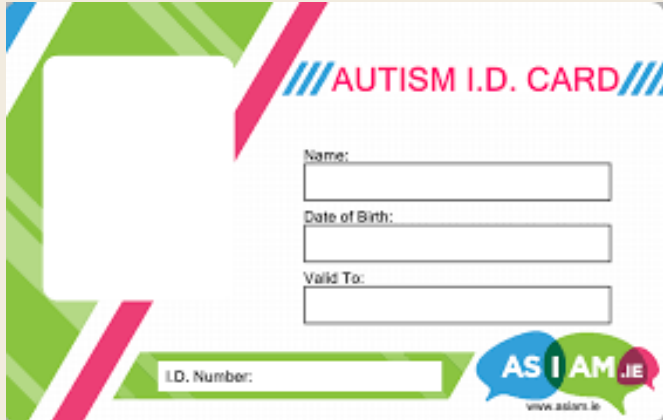
Dinner is served by hotel staff I book a table at the entrance, and wait to be seated at my table



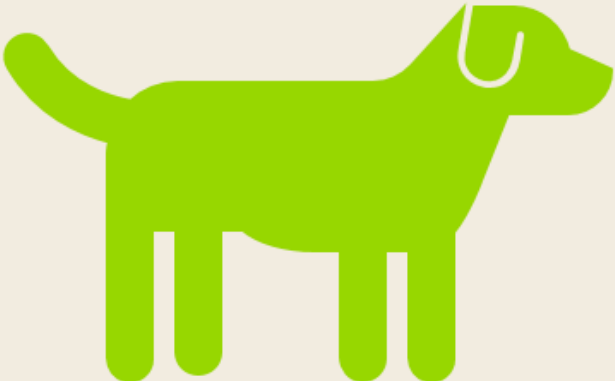
Sensory Processing



Judgement & Attitude



A form titled "AUTISM I.D. CARD" with fields for Name, Date of Birth, Valid To, and I.D. Number. It includes the AS I AM .IE logo and the website www.asiam.ie.



A sign for a library that is autism friendly. The text reads: "This library is autism friendly. Some of our visitors might make noises. This helps them cope with stress. Talk to a member of staff to find out more." It features the AS I AM .IE logo, the SQJ logo, and the METRO COUNCIL IRELAND logo. A photo of a smiling boy is on the right, with the dimensions logo and website address dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly.



An advertisement for the "AS WE ARE" app. The phone screen shows the app interface with the title "THE TEENAGE YEARS: AS WE ARE" and an illustration of diverse teenagers. Logos for St. John of God Foundation (Lifelong Care. Lifelong Support.) and AS I AM .IE are at the bottom.

What is an Autism-Friendly Community

Criteria:

- A community which makes a commitment to put in place measures to improve accessibility for and promote acceptance of Autistic people
- Project led by a committee with representatives from the local community and Autistic advocates
- 3 year plan in place to measurably improve the quality of life for Autistic people in the community
- A required number of Autism-Friendly Champions
- Campaigns to educate the wider public about Autism acceptance and accessibility



Guiding Principles of an Autism-Friendly Community

- Autistic Voice
- Neuroaffirmative / Rights-Based
- Inclusive

**What is
involved?**



**Steering
Group**

**3 Year
Plan**

**Autism-
Friendly
Champions**

Steering Group

- Autistic advocates
- Parents and local support group representatives
- Key stakeholders from the broader community
- Representative of the community
- Responsible for driving the project and creating and implementing the 3 year plan

Autism-Friendly Champions

- 20 Businesses (Cross-Section)
- 20 Public Services
- 20 Community & Voluntary Organisations

- Training (based on the size of the organisation)
- Sensory Adaptation
- Visual Guide
- Assistance Dogs Friendly
- Promoting and supporting the initiative

3 Year Plan

- Created in partnership with the Autistic and local community
- Unique to the city
- Recognises that a city is more than a collection of organisations
- Recognises that accessibility is a journey not a destination

- Overarching goals
- Individual Sectors
- Employment
- Built Environment
- Festivals
- Public Education
- Inclusive Participation

Thank You



IRELAND'S
AUTISM
CHARITY