



Aut'Créatifs

Mouvement de personnes autistes pour la reconnaissance positive de l'autisme

TELLING THE STORY OF AUTISM DIFFERENTLY Recommendations for Autism Terminology in the Media

Knowledge of Autism is in a great state of evolution. Despite this, a large part of the population still ignores what it means to be autistic, and misconceptions arising from popular myths are widespread. As a result of this misinformation, terminologies referring to the condition of autism and autistic people are quite variable. Often, they take respectful forms, but other times, they can be devaluing.

This document will serve as a guide to any person working in the domain of communications. According to the principles of non-discrimination and the right to fair information, the use of adequate language is recommended. These proposals received the support of Doctor Laurent Mottron. We thank him for his support.

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Recommended Terminology	Terminology to Avoid
<u>In General</u> -Condition -Autism/Autistic condition -Autistic/Non-Autistic Neurodevelopmental Variation -Neurological variation	<u>In General</u> -Problem, illness, affliction, pathology -Autism Spectrum Disorder -Normal/Abnormal -Pervasive developmental disorder
<u>About the Person</u> -Autistic -Autistic person -Person of autistic spirit or nature -To identify as/be autistic -Describe capacities, talents, and aptitudes of a person; in context. -Autonomous/non-autonomous person	<u>About the Person</u> -Person affected by autism/ suffering from autism -person with autism/in the situation of autism -To admit/confess one's autism -person with autism spectrum disorder/ASD -High/Low functioning autistic
<u>Description</u> -Condition -Characteristic, particularity, trait -Different neurology and sensorial sensitivities -Difference -Particular interest, focused intelligence, passion -Rituals, gestures -Unconventional learning -Sense of humor unique to one's structure of thought -Variant of feeling and expression of empathy -Autistic functioning	<u>Description</u> -Problem/disorder -Deficiency, incapacity, deficit -Injuries -Anomaly/abnormality -Obsession, restricted interests -Ticks, manias -Resistance to teaching methods -Doesn't smile, no sense of humor -Lacking empathy -Abnormal functioning