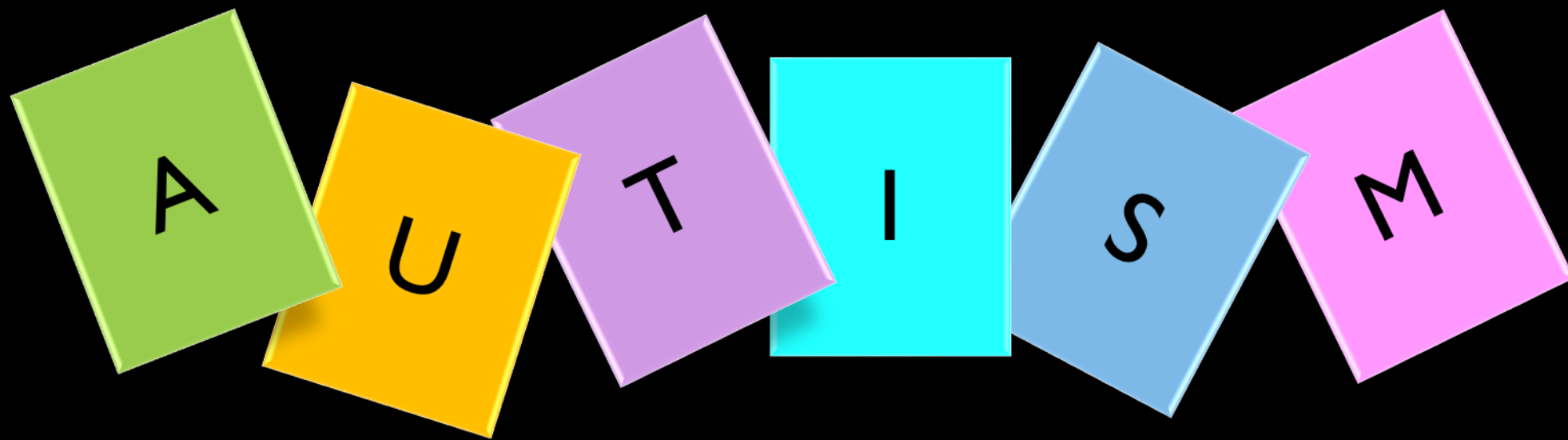
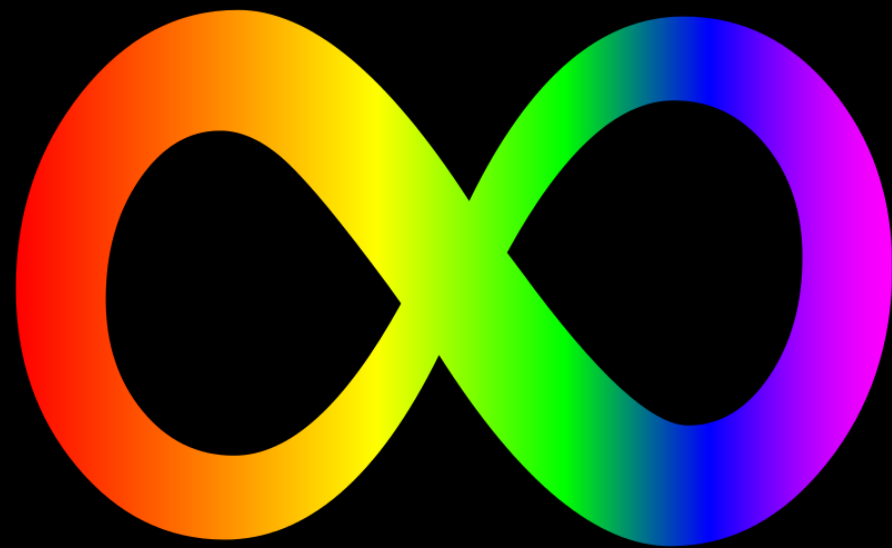
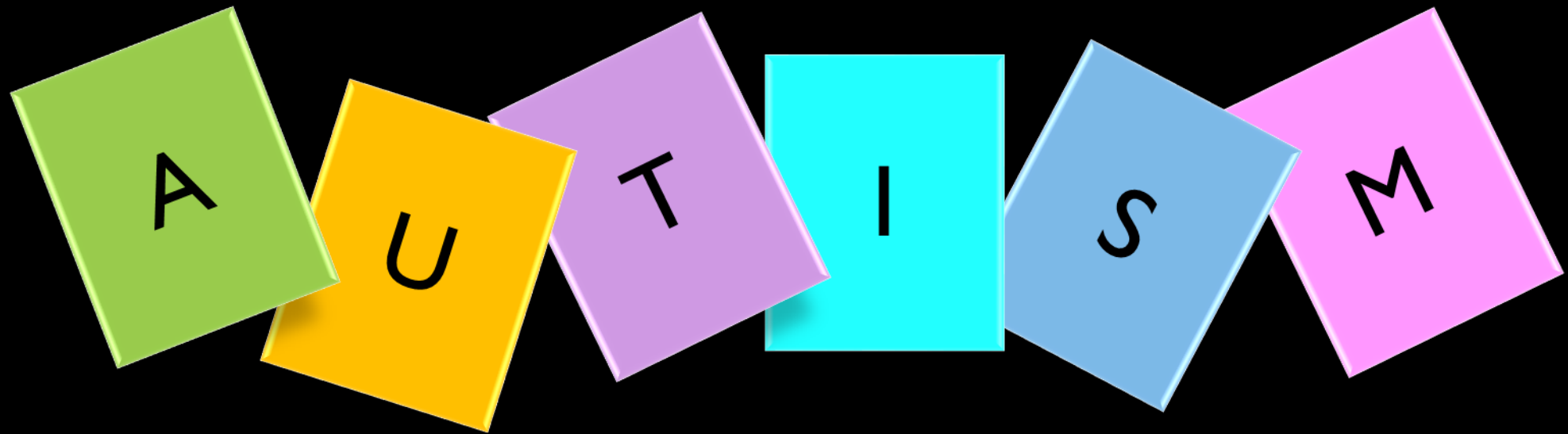




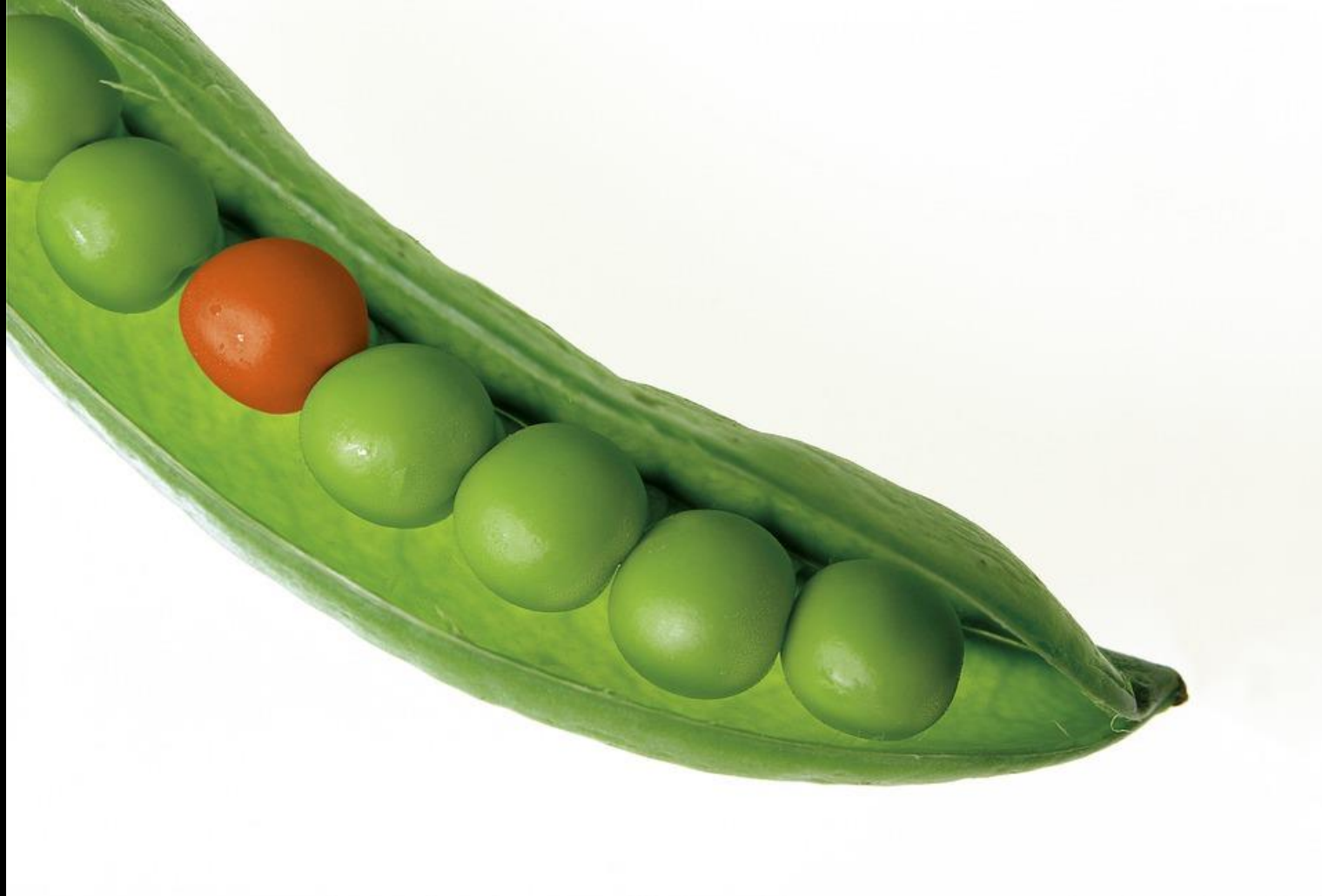
**LIGHT
IT UP
BLUE**



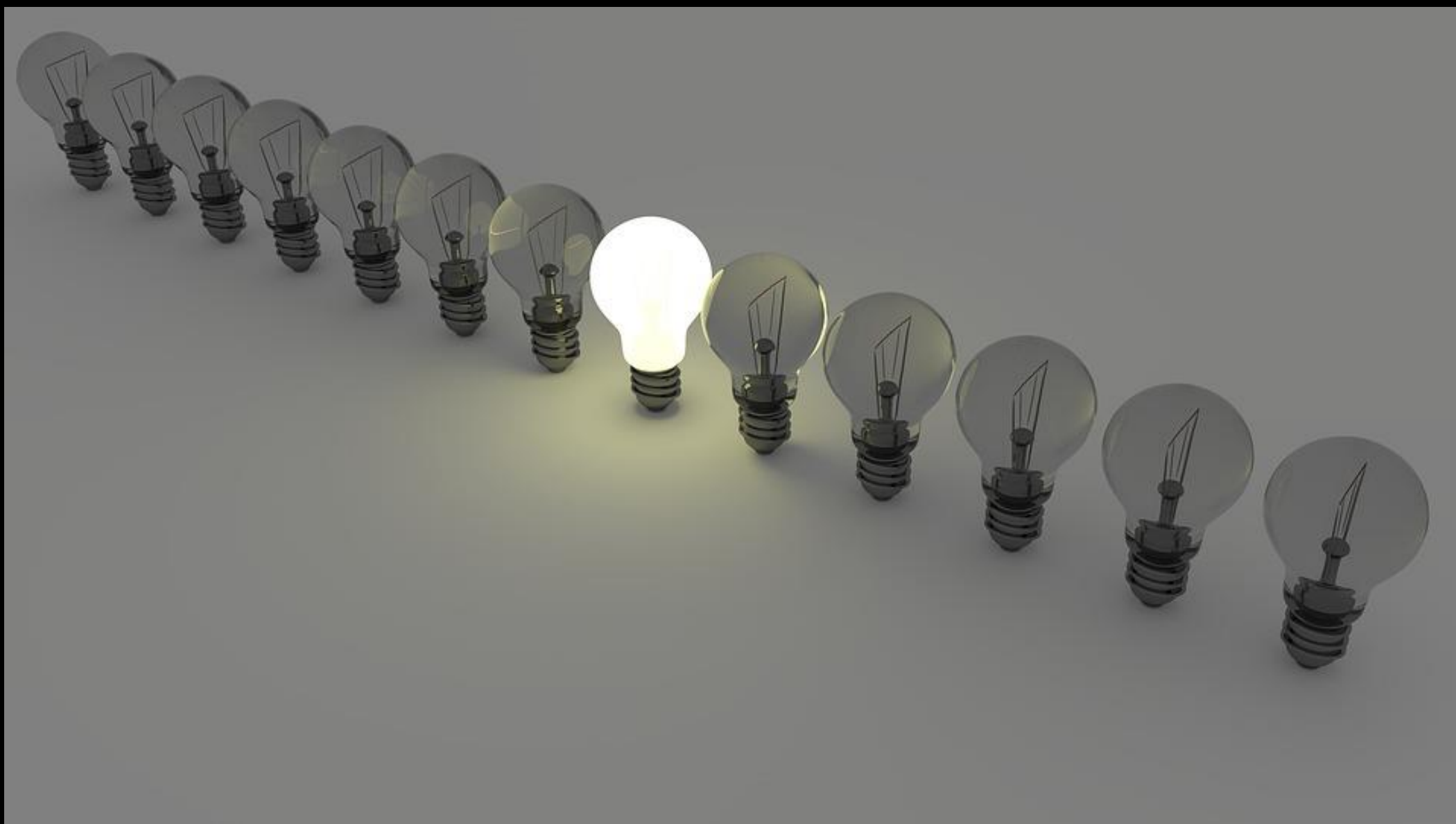
Autism Awareness



What do the following pictures have in common?

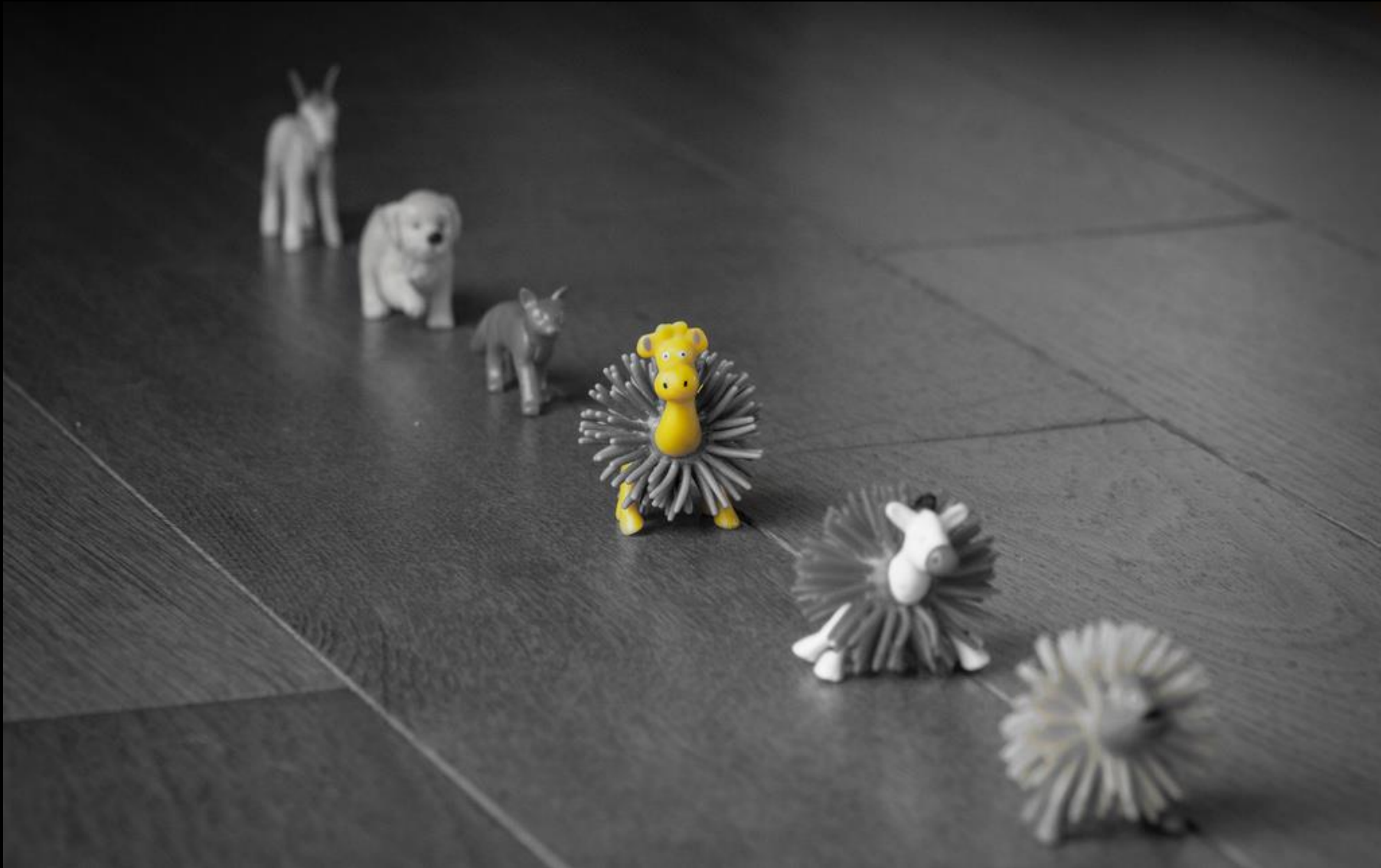








They all have something in the picture that is different from the rest.
They stand out from the rest of the crowd.





People with autism are different from other people in some ways.

In 2021, the CDC reported that approximately 1 in 44 children in the USA is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).





Studies have shown that boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls. According to data in 2018 it was estimated that 1 out of 27 boys and 1 in 116 girls are diagnosed with autism in the USA.

World Autism Awareness Week and World Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month take place each year to raise awareness about autism.

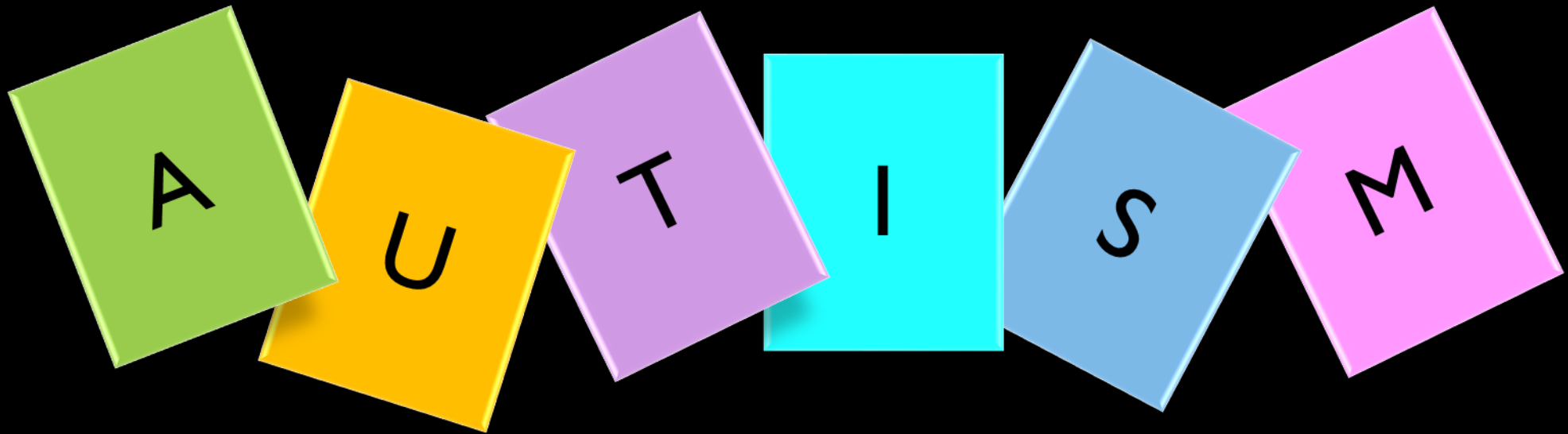


Awareness

Every year on World Autism Awareness Day, 'Autism Speaks' holds an international 'Light It Up Blue' campaign to shine a light on autism.



What is Autism?



Imagine being in a foreign country; not being able to speak or interpret the language, and not able to make yourself understood.

Imagine not understanding or knowing about the customs or ways of life of the people who live there.

Imagine not knowing what the food was like.

Imagine not knowing what was going to happen to you next.

That is a little bit what it is like to have autism.





Autism affects how people perceive the world and interact with others. People with autism see, hear, and feel the world differently to others.

Some people with autism will need a lot of help in their daily lives.

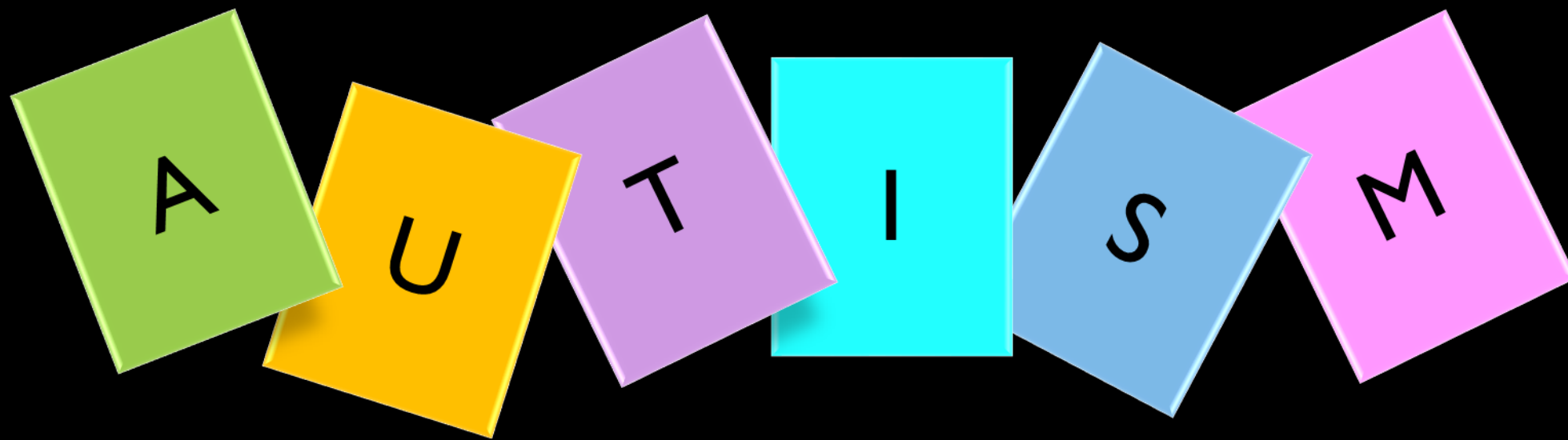


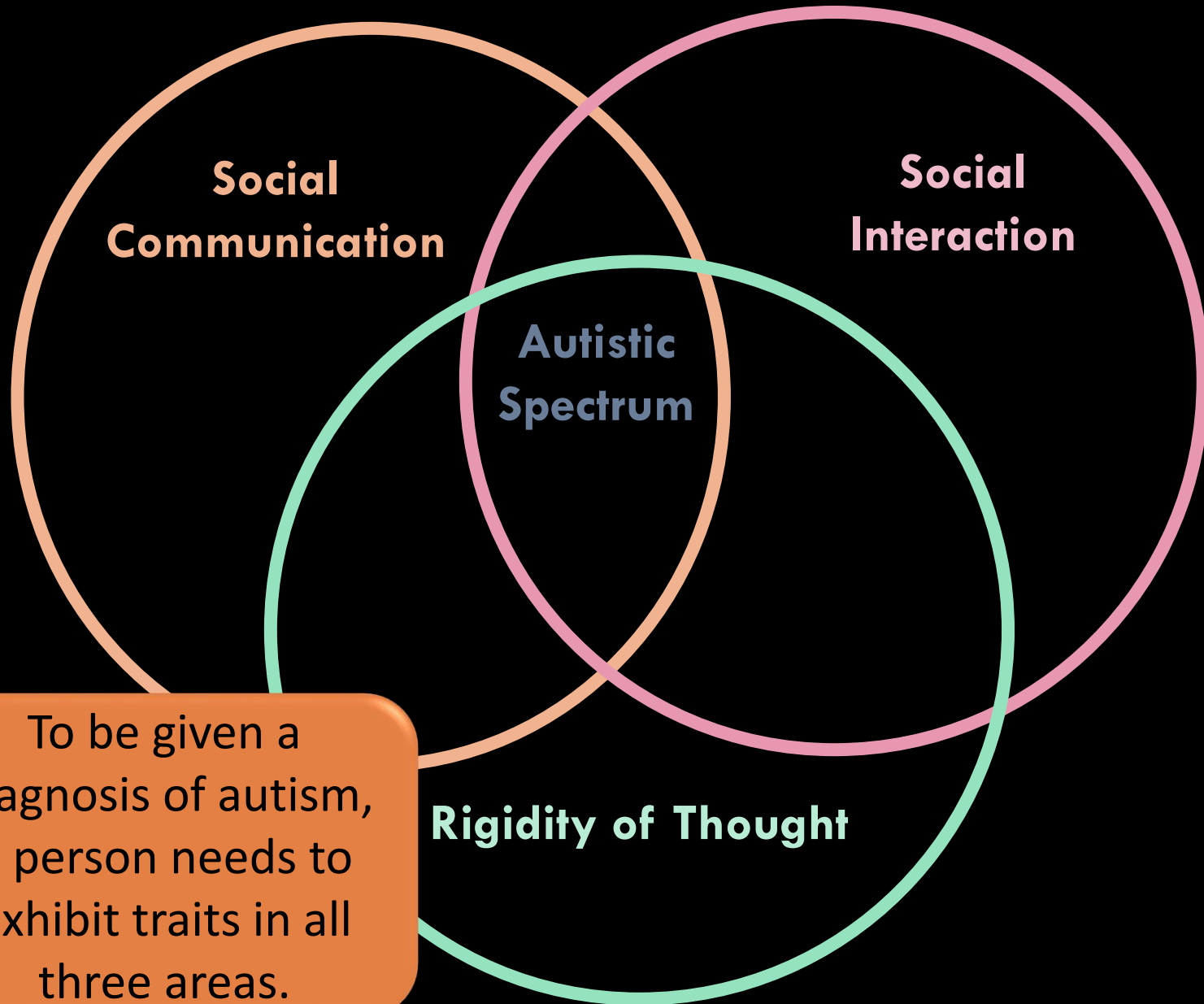
Other people with autism can work and live with little or no support.

The exact cause of autism is still unknown. Research suggests that a combination of factors, genetic and environmental, may cause autism. Autism is not caused by a person's upbringing or their social circumstances.



Signs of Autism





To be given a diagnosis of autism, a person needs to exhibit traits in all three areas.

Autism is a spectrum condition. All autistic people share certain difficulties, but being autistic will affect them in different ways.

Social Communication

- Language taken literally
- Does not understand jokes or sarcasm
- Body Language

Social Interaction

- Has difficulty forming friendships
- Finds difficulty working in a team

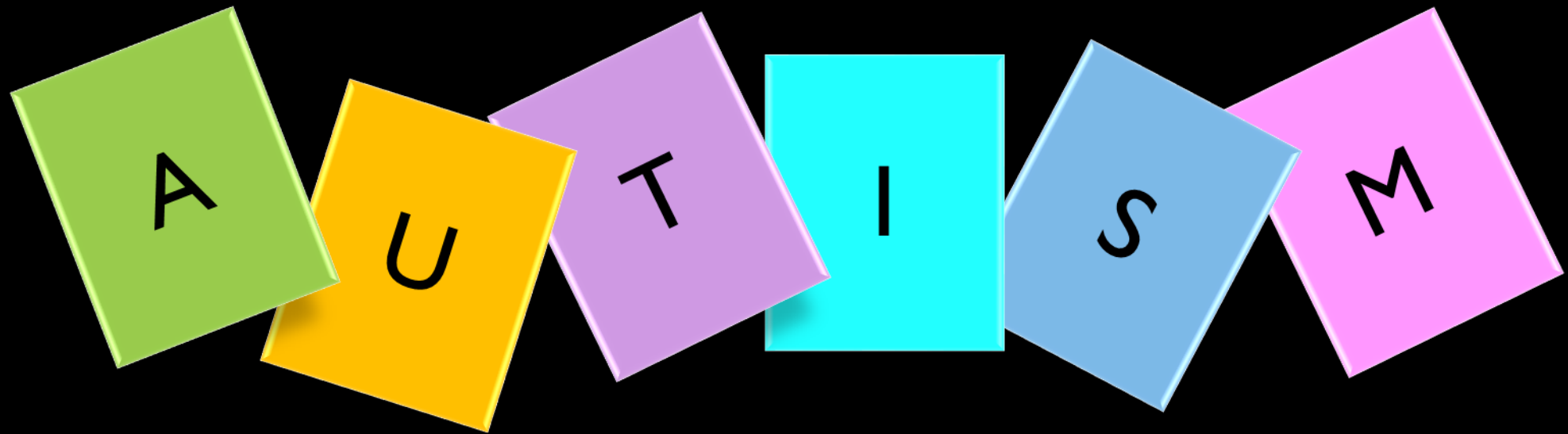
Rigidity of Thought

- Needs routine
- Finds changes challenging
- Is not able to empathise

Behavior

- Sensory sensitivity
- Rituals / Obsessions

Social Communication Difficulties

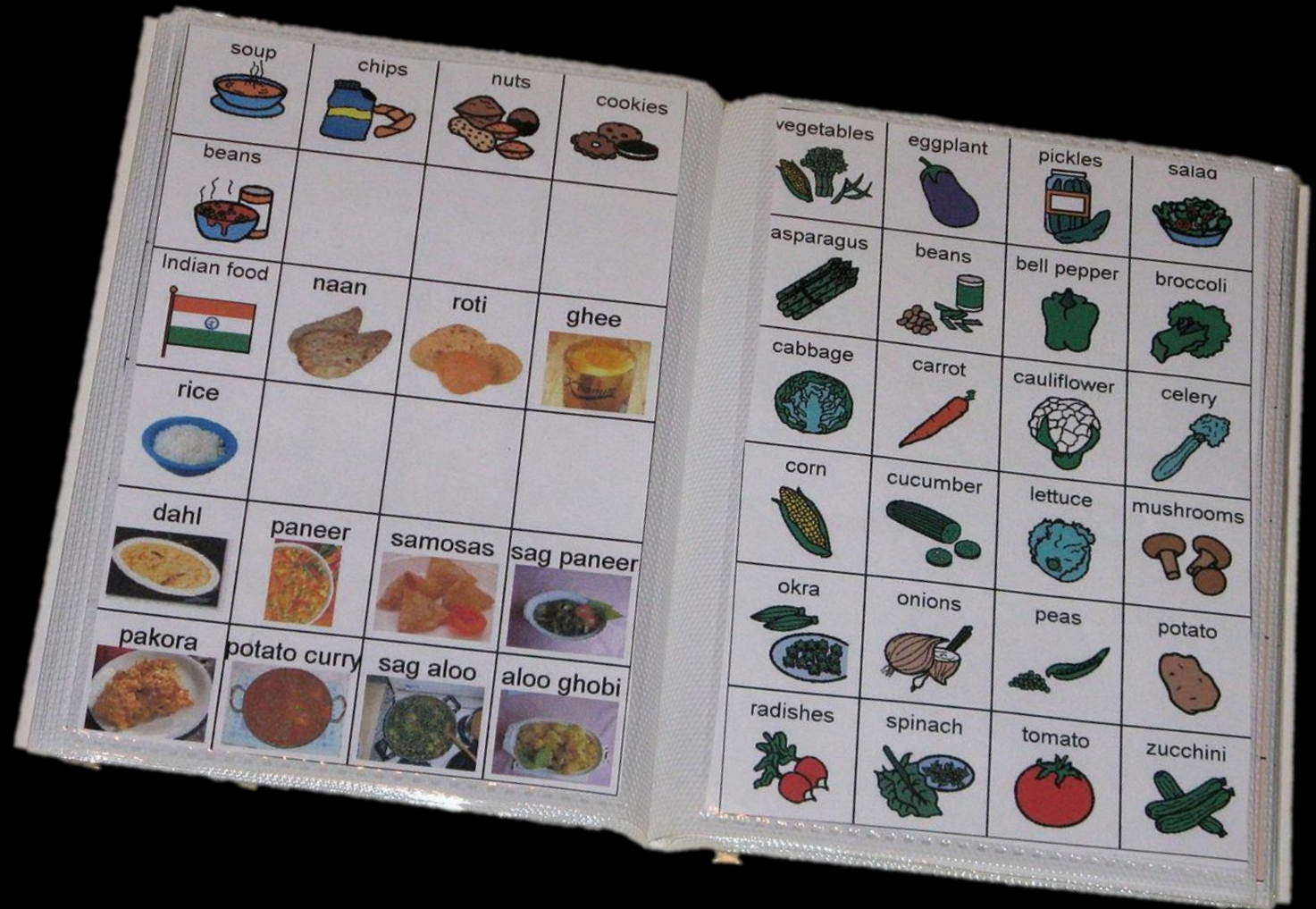


Some people with autism may not speak or have limited speech.

They will often understand more of what other people say to them than they are able to express.



Some people with autism use alternative means of communication, such as sign language or visual symbols.



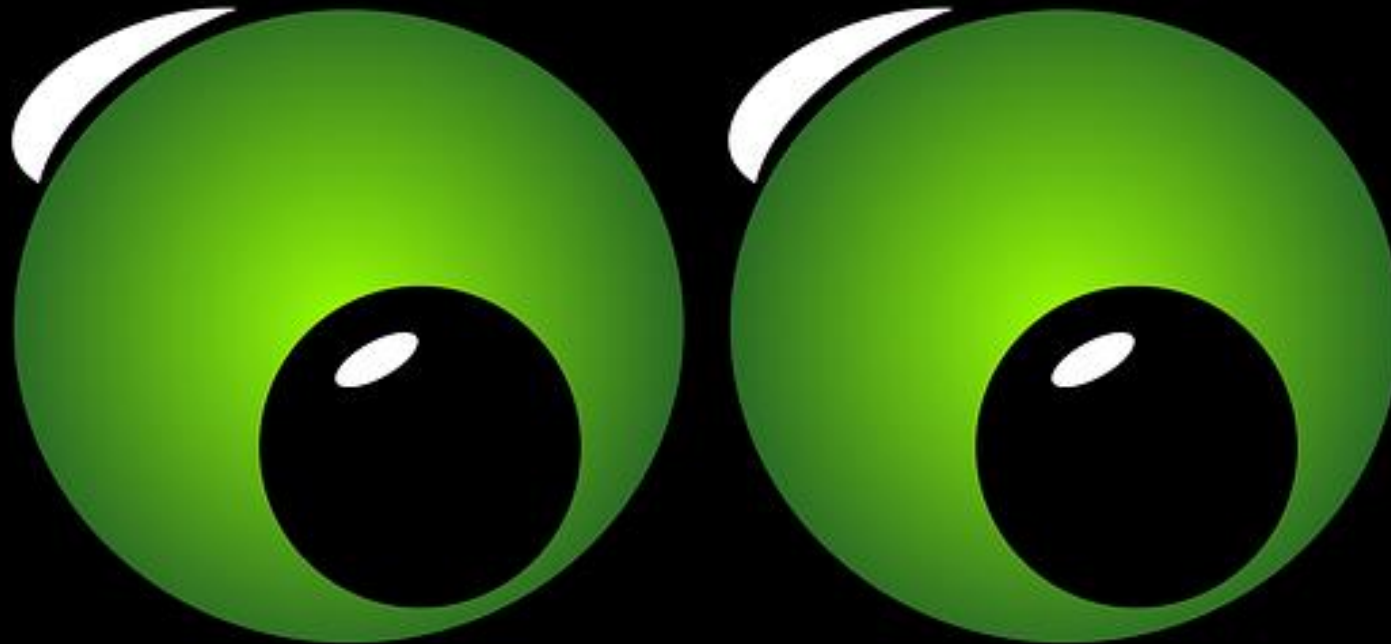
Many children with autism struggle with abstract concepts. Others may repeat words or phrases. This is called echolalia.

Do you want a
drink of juice?



Do you want a
drink of juice?

People with autism may not be comfortable with eye contact.



I take things very literally. So, if you say it's raining cats and dogs, I think it is really raining cats and dogs.



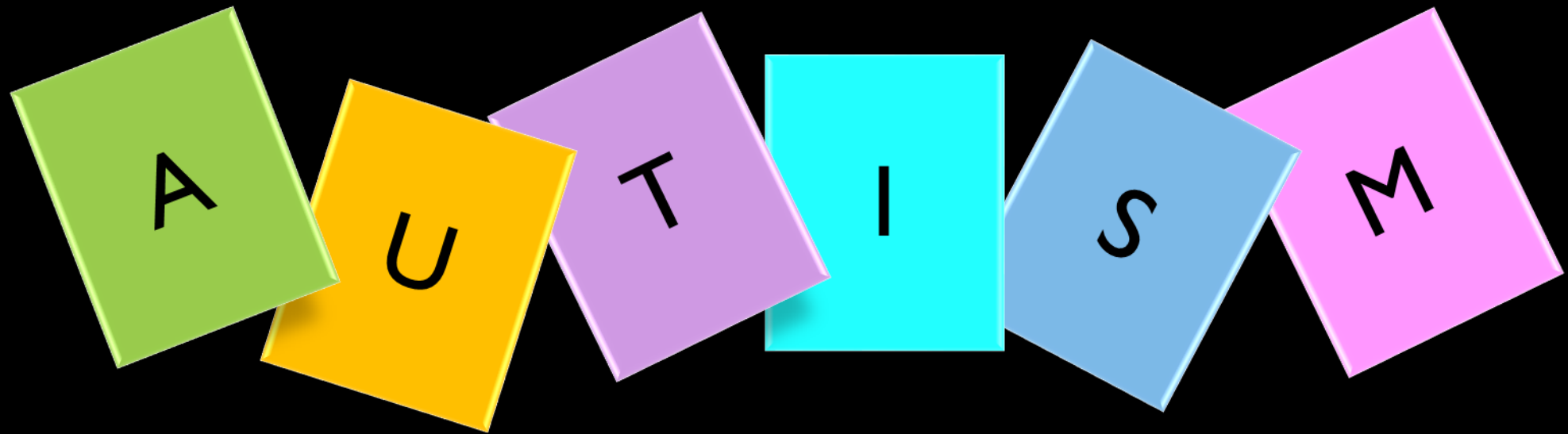


When I first meet someone I don't know what to say. I have difficulty making small talk. However, I am really happy to talk about basketball. I can do amazing tricks with the ball!



People with autism have difficulties interpreting both verbal and non-verbal language like gestures, facial expressions, or tone of voice.

Social Interaction Difficulties





People with autism often have difficulty recognising or understanding others' feelings and intentions and expressing their own emotions. This can make it very hard for them in social situations.

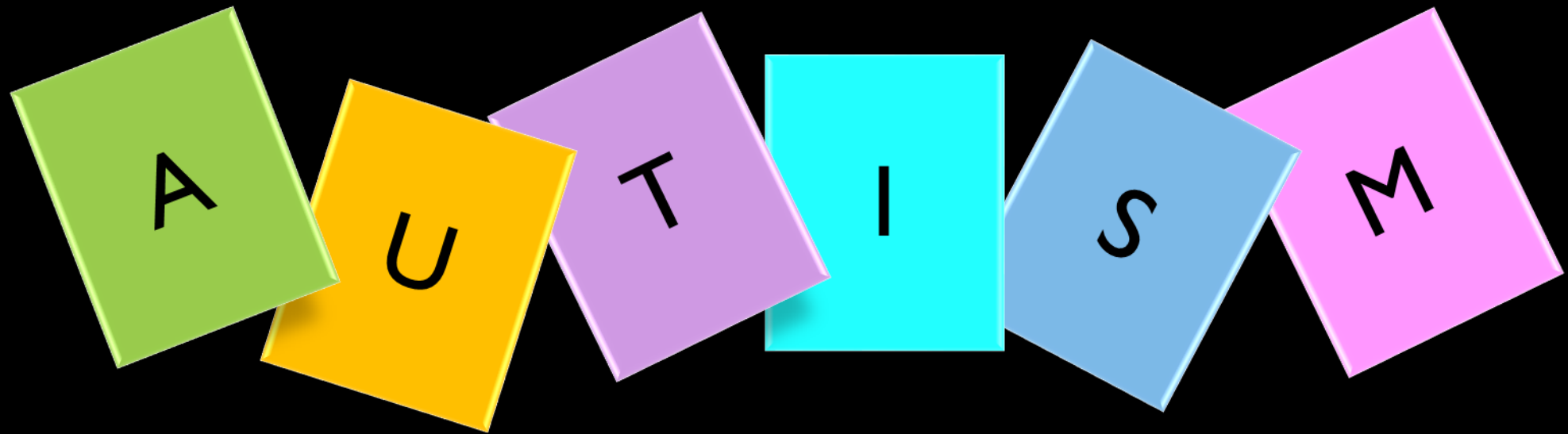
They may appear to be insensitive, seek out time alone when overloaded by other people, not seek comfort from other people and appear to behave strangely or in a way thought to be socially inappropriate.



People with autism often find change difficult to cope with.



Sensory Issues



For some people with autism the touch of something, the taste of something, the smell of something can cause anxiety or even physical pain.



ANXIETY



Lunch times, playtimes, physical education lessons and assemblies are times where the lack of structure, large numbers of pupils, unpredictability, and noise can become overwhelming for people with autism.

People with autism may experience over or under sensitivity to sounds and noises. They may find certain background sounds, which other people can ignore or block out, unbearably loud or distracting.



I wear ear defenders to block out some of the noise.





Some children find the feel of clothing touching their skin unbearable. Shirt labels or seams on socks are particularly annoying to many children with autism.

Some individuals with autism are oblivious to extreme cold or heat. A child with autism may fall and break an arm, yet never cry.

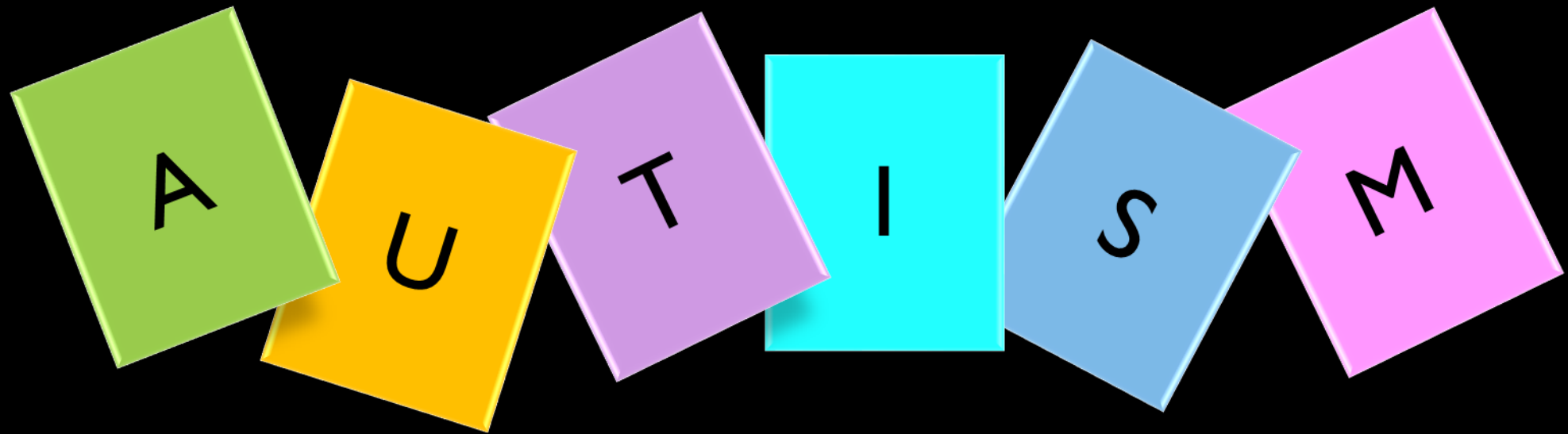


As a result of their frustrations, anxieties, inability to communicate and interact, many young people with autism can have major meltdowns.



Please do not judge me or my child. He's not being naughty; he has autism.

Obsessions

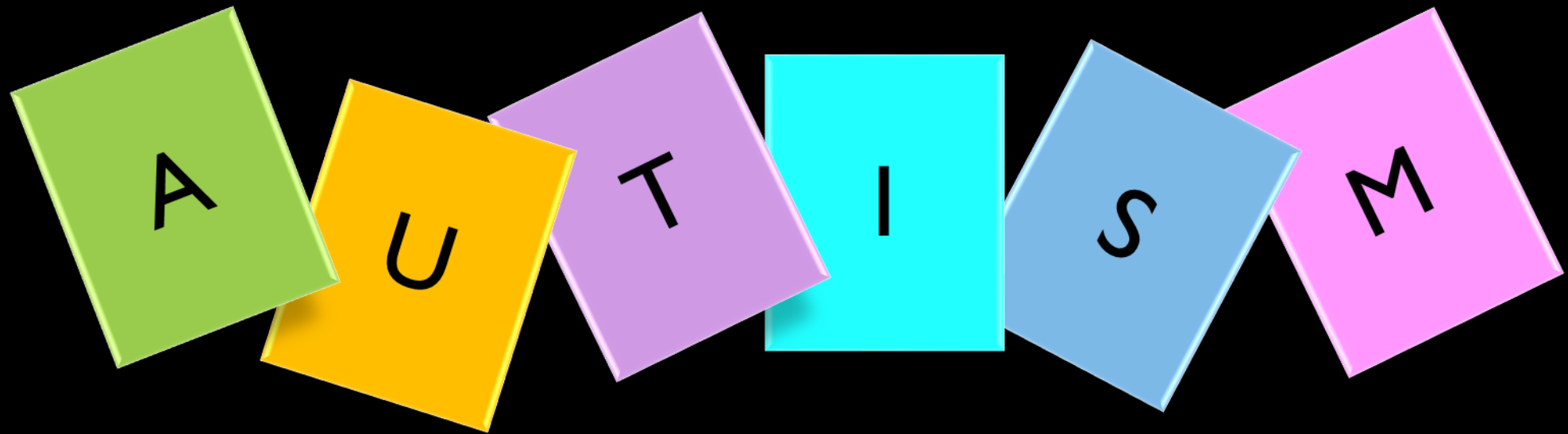




I really love horses. I write about them and draw them all the time.

Many people with autism have intense and highly-focused interests, to the point of obsession, often from a young age. These can change over time or be lifelong. They can be anything from art or music to trains or computers.

Repetitions and Rituals

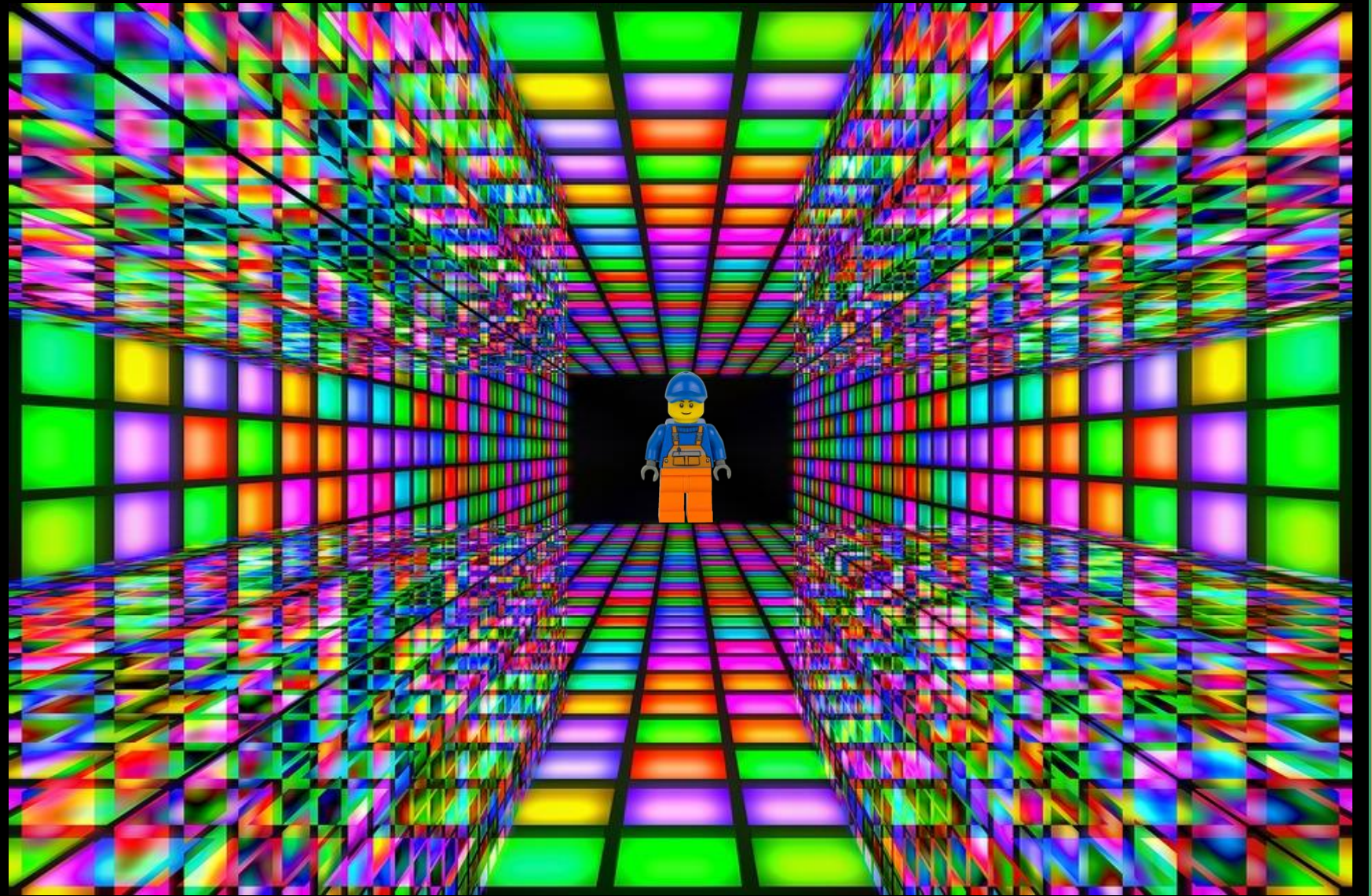


This little boy's repetitive ritual is to make a line of his toys before going to sleep.



The world is a very unpredictable and confusing place for people with autism. Many prefer to have a daily routine so that they know what is going to happen next. They may want to always travel the same way to and from school or eat exactly the same food for breakfast.

It can be difficult to gain the attention of someone with autism. They do not always see the bigger picture and can easily become side-tracked.



People with autism often engage in repetitive behaviour such as arm or hand-flapping, finger-flicking, rocking, jumping, spinning or twirling, head-banging, and other body movements. These tend to occur during times of heightened emotions such as anxiety or excitement.





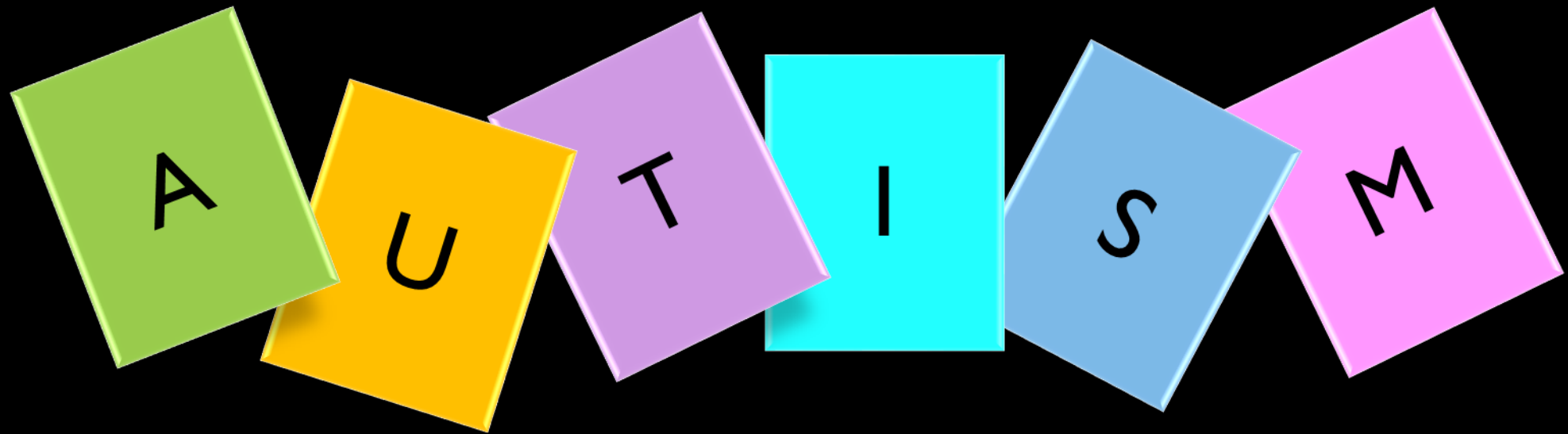
Some children with autism may be fascinated by spinning objects.

A person with long dark hair is shown in profile, looking towards a bright light source. The light creates a strong starburst effect with many rays emanating from it. The background is dark, and the overall scene is dimly lit, with the light source being the primary illumination.

I like all different kinds of lights.

Some have fixations with lights.

Gifts and Talents



Think Out Of

The

Many people with autism have high levels of creativity and are able to think 'out of the box'.

Some have a talent for music. They can just pick up an instrument and play something they have heard.



Many people with autism can recall lines from films, plays and scripts with great ease after just hearing it once. They can recite the lines and replicate actions and movements accurately.



Others can sing a song and replicate all the nuances of the singer's voice.



Stephen Wiltshire has the ability to draw from memory a landscape after seeing it just once.



At the age of eleven he produced a detailed drawing of four square miles of London after a single helicopter ride above the city.



Temple Grandin did not speak until she was three and a half years old, communicating by screaming and humming. She is now a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior.

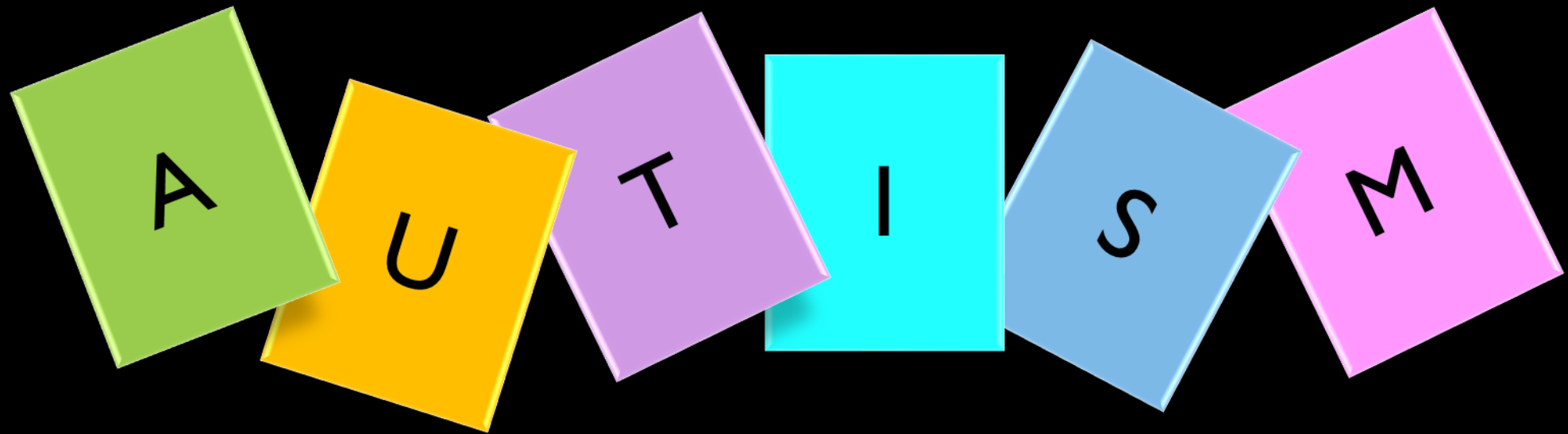


She is a renowned spokesperson and TIME magazine named her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

I can recall details easily. It is like having full length movies in my head.

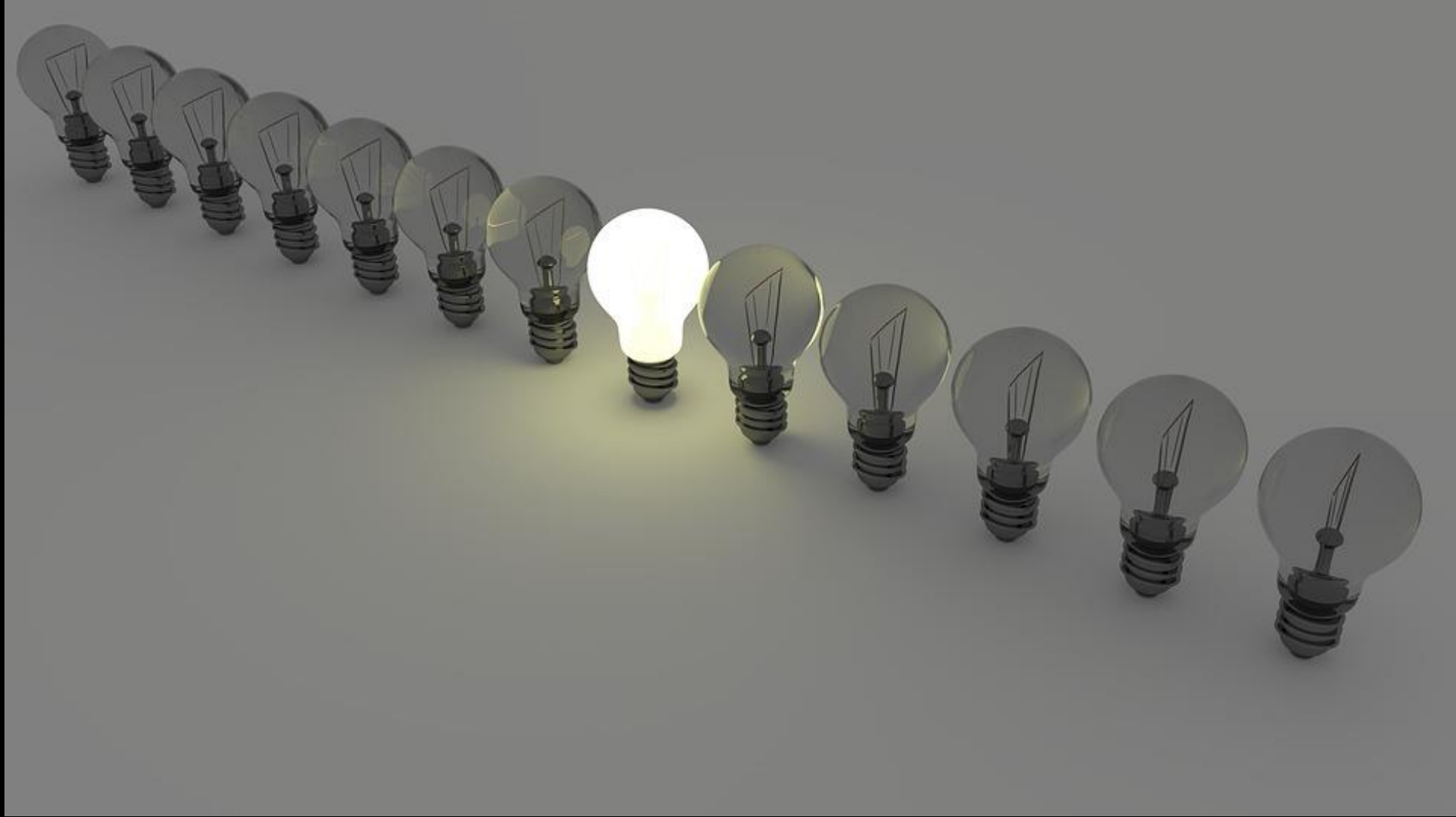


Autism



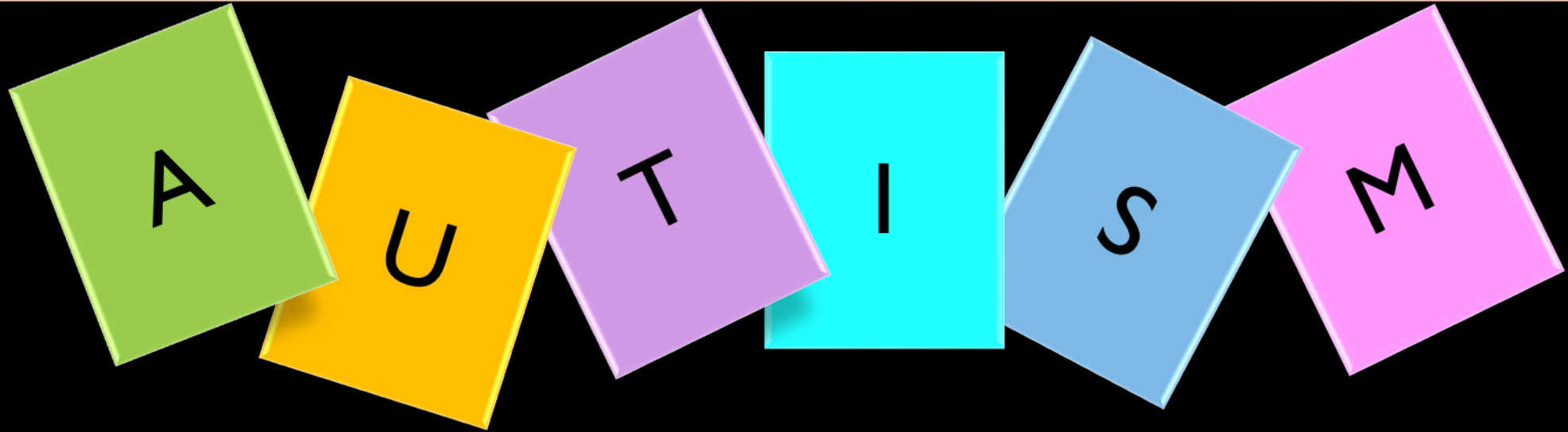
Stand out from the crowd ...

AUTISM



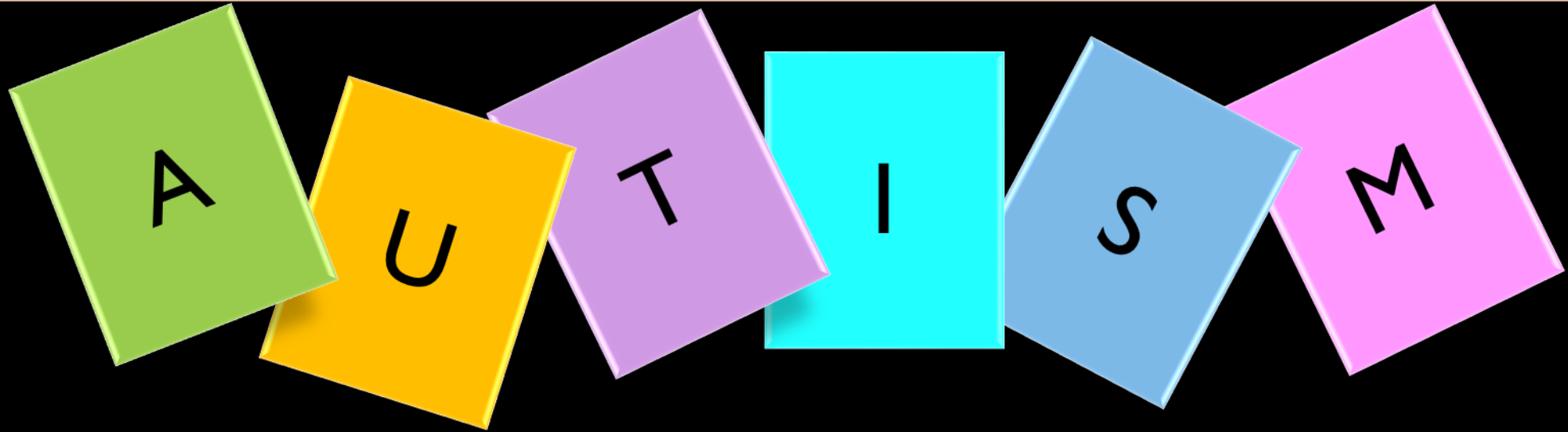
and shine a light on autism!

KISD



72 students identified with Autism

KISD



Autism is 1 of the 13 qualifying disabilities for special education services in Texas. If you suspect a child having autism or another disability notify your school.