How to Be a Good Friend

What makes a good friend?

Good friends are helpful, kind, and fun!
Autistic kids like to play, laugh, and learn – just like you!
What are good ways to make friends with autistic kids?

1. **Ask them to join you!**

2. **Wait for them.** Autistic kids may take time to talk. Be patient.

3. **Take turns talking.** If your friend doesn’t talk, look at their face to see how they feel.

Match the face to the feeling!

Scared  Sad  Happy

Tip: Autistic kids may not look at you when you talk to them. It doesn’t mean that they’re not listening!
4 Be kind. If your friend makes you upset, tell them to “please stop.” If they make you happy, be sure to tell them that, too!

5 If you don’t understand something that your friend does or says, ask them!

6 Let them talk about their autism. Some kids want to talk about their autism. Some don’t. Don’t talk about their autism unless your friend says it’s okay.

7 Love your differences! Autism is not a bad thing. It’s a way that people are different. Difference is great— it’s what makes us special!

Nice things to say to a friend:

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