

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

## Autism

compiled by Bob House, [www.dialogueworks.co.uk](http://www.dialogueworks.co.uk)

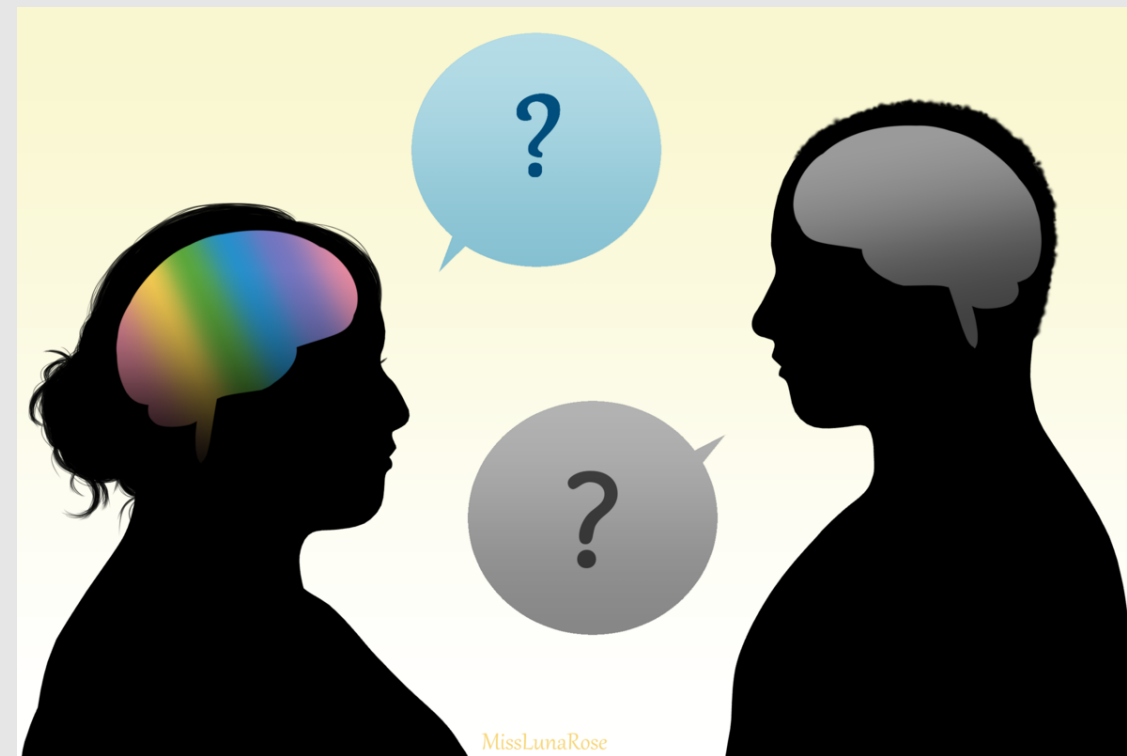


Image: MissLunaRose12, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

**Note to parents/carers and teachers**

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



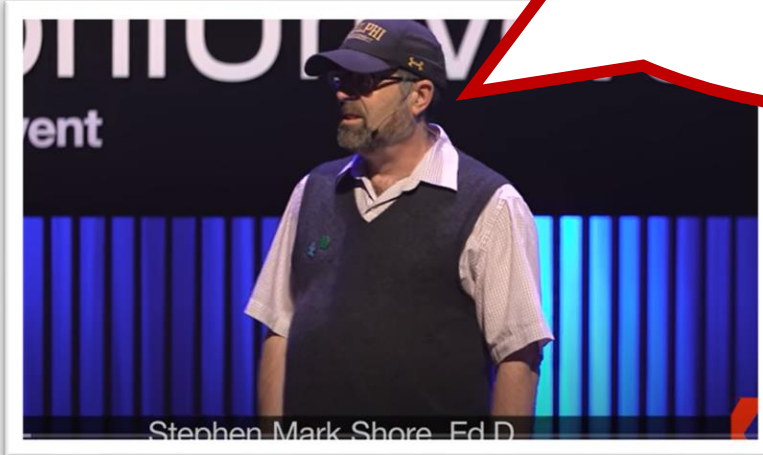
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# What is autism?

- Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how some people interact and communicate with the world.
- It affects about 700,000 children and adults in the UK.
- Like all of us, everyone on the autistic spectrum is an individual, enjoying different strengths and facing different challenges.
- Some effects of autism can be
  - having highly focussed interests or hobbies
  - having great expertise and knowledge in these areas of interest
  - being particularly sensitive to sound, light, taste or touch
  - noticing huge amounts of detail in everyday situations
  - finding it challenging to communicate and interact socially with others
  - finding change hard to cope with
  - engaging in repetitive behaviour, often as a way to manage anxiety
  - sometimes going into meltdown when everything becomes too much
- Some people see autism as a superpower which helps them achieve extraordinary things.
- If you would like to know more and see a video about autism, you can go to <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/what-is-autism?>

# Quotes about autism

If you've met one individual with autism, you've met one individual with autism.



**Dr. Stephen Shore**  
musician and lecturer

I want Elijah to know that he is loved just the way he is.



**Gee Vero**  
artist

English is my second language. Autism is my first.



**Dani Bowman**  
animator

Stephen Shore quote from <https://www.autismspeaks.org/life-spectrum/10-inspiring-quotes-people-autism>  
Gee Vero and Dani Bowman quotes from <https://the-art-of-autism.com/favorite-quotes-about-autism-and-aspergers/>  
Stephen Shore photo from YouTube screenshot: <https://youtu.be/Gk9T7naEjIs>  
Gee Vero photo, Assenmacher, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons  
Dani Bowman photo from YouTube screenshot: <https://youtu.be/Ba6RrNpsWk>

# Thinking about autism

## Caring thinking

How can we show we accept children who think and communicate differently?

## Collaborative thinking

As well as talking, how many other ways of communicating with others can you think of?



## Creative thinking

How many special strengths can you think of that children on the autistic spectrum might have?

## Critical thinking

Do you think we all make enough effort to understand children with different needs and abilities?

Will you do anything differently after seeing this HomeTalk?

Have you ever spent time with someone who thinks and acts very differently from you?

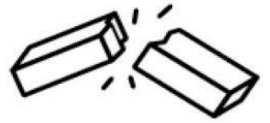
What things do you and a child on the autistic spectrum have in common?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

**CONNECT**



**DIVIDE**

**LISTEN/LOOK**

**ZOOM (in/out)**

Do all children on the autistic spectrum have the same challenges?

How much detail do you notice when you look at things?

How well do we, as a society, understand autism?

What one thing could you do to help an autistic child?

# Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

## Stimulus

# Poppy

A HomeTalk story for families and schools



<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HomeTalk-Autism-Poppy.pdf>

## What would it be like to be Poppy?

Here are some of the things that matter in Poppy's life. Let's think how it would feel to be Poppy.

## Talking Points

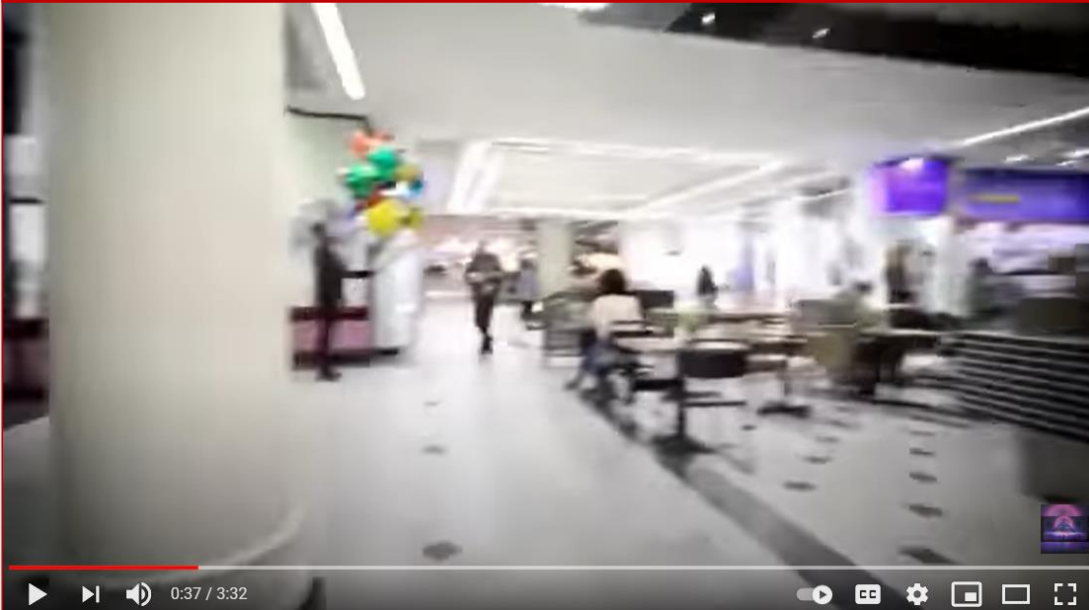
- What do you think is the most interesting thing about Poppy?
- If you met Poppy, what would you talk about with her?
- How do you think Poppy feels about other children at her school?

## Activities

- With a friend or an adult to help you, see if you can write a story about yourself – like the one about Poppy.
- Then have a chat about what's similar and what's different between your story and Poppy's.

# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/QdhwsK7E6cc>

### What does it feel like to be autistic? – Thomas Gipson

A short film showing what it's like to see too much, hear too much and feel too much in everyday life.

## Talking Points

- Why does the boy say: *I'm not naughty, I'm just autistic?*
- Why do you think he was counting on his fingers?
- How do really loud noises make you feel?
- How can we be as kind as possible to people with autism?

## Activities

- Look at the first 1 minute 20 seconds of the film again.
- Then make a list of some things that you have seen, heard or felt today.
- Have a chat about which of the things on your list you think might bother an autistic person.

# Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

## Stimulus



[https://youtu.be/f\\_v92wMFWJE](https://youtu.be/f_v92wMFWJE)

### **Greta Thunberg – CBC News, Canada**

Greta sees her Asperger's syndrome as a superpower in her climate fight. Asperger's is one type of autism.

## Talking Points

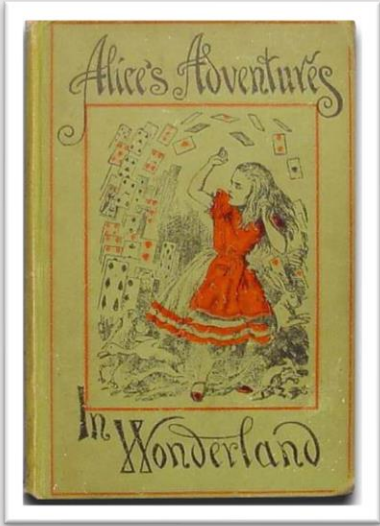
- Greta Thunberg says *we need people who aren't like everyone else*. How important do you think this is?
- Some people see autism as an impairment, others see it as a special strength. What's your opinion about this?

## Activities

- Have a look at the people shown on the next slide. They are all people who are often considered to have been on the autistic spectrum.
- Pick one or two of these people who you think have changed the world most. Ask a friend or family member to do the same and then discuss your choices. Does this affect the way you think about autism?

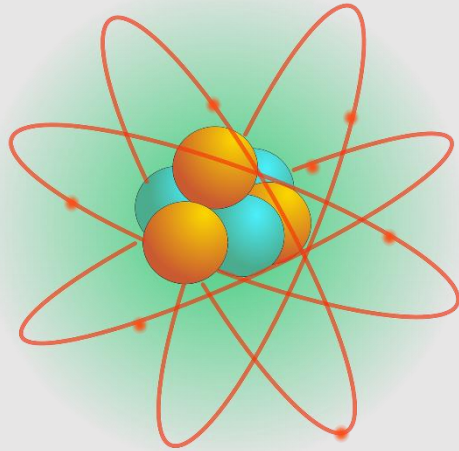


# 'Superpowers'



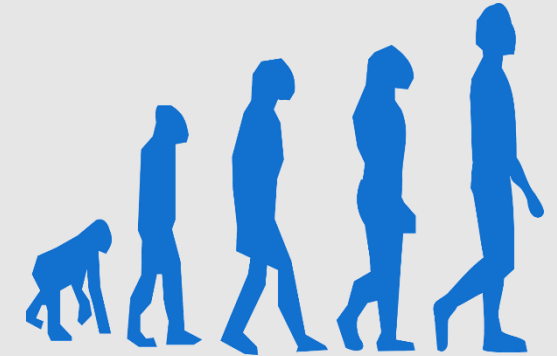
**Lewis Carroll – author**

**Albert Einstein – scientist**



**Temple Grandin – animal activist**

**Charles Darwin – biologist**



**Daryl Hannah – actor**



**Steve Jobs – inventor**



**Andy Warhol – artist**

➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions

➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children

To get HomeTalk emailed every week  
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#P4C and #thinkingmoves



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# Training opportunities for teachers, support staff and parents

## **P4C Plus Foundation course** (12hrs)

*Teaching that puts more thinking into learning*

- Introduces you to **P4C Plus** and builds your skills over the first year of practice
- Equips you with a range of skills to use in P4C inquiries and throughout the curriculum
- Includes premium resources and teacher guide

## **Thinking Moves A – Z course** (6hrs)

*Making metacognition simple across the curriculum*

- Shows you how **Thinking Moves** can enhance thinking in any subject, as well as in P4C inquiries
- Gives you practical guidance on how to embed Thinking Moves into learning
- Includes premium resources and handbook

Both courses available online or face-to-face, for individuals or whole-school teams

See <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/training/> for upcoming courses

Contact [enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk) for bookings or more information