



NEURODIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity is a term that describes the different ways people's brains process information and interact with the world around them. It's based on the idea that there's no "right" way for the brain to work, and that differences in how people think, learn, and behave are not deficits. Instead, the term embraces and encourages the wide range of ways people perceive and respond to the world.



AUTISM SPECTRUM

The Autism Spectrum is NOT linear



Less autistic

Very autistic

The Autism Spectrum
looks more like:



- Social differences
- Interests
- Repetitions
- Sensory sensitivities
- Emotional regulation
- Perception
- Executive functioning
- Other

The ADHD Iceberg

What It Looks Like

Overspending

Emotional Outbursts

Disorganized

Daydreaming

Interrupting

Fidgeting

Oversharing

Distracted

What It Is Really Like

Racing Thoughts

Time Blindness

ADHD Paralysis

Poor Memory

Sleep Problems

Dopamine Deficiency

Executive Dysfunction

ADHD

Attention
Working Memory
Time Blindness
Risk Behavior

Sensory Input
Hyperfixation
OCD tendencies
Auditory Processing
Interrupting
Executive Dysfunction
Emotions
Impulsivity
Rejection Sensitivity
Insomnia
Repetitive Thoughts
Restlessness
Stimming
Making Friends

AUTISM

Rigidity
Routine
Communication
Social Rules
Focus on Detail
Change Anxiety



Strengths in Neurodiversity

- Creativity
 - Problem-Solving
 - Multitasking
 - Energetic
 - Pattern Recognition
 - Enhanced Listening
- ### Skills

- Intuitive Thinking



Top tips for a more neurodiversity inclusive classroom

To help those with ADHD:

Allow fidget toys in the classroom

1



2

Let students stand up rather than sit

Use 'bouncy bands' on chair legs for that excess energy

3



4

Schedule brief movement breaks into your lessons

...and for Autism/ASD:

Allow students to follow their passions

1



2

Give the choice to work in a group or alone, as needed

Provide support when changing task, with warnings in the lead up

3



4

Allow earplugs, hats or sunglasses for sensory issues, where they don't interfere with teaching

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For more great tips and brain-based resources:
www.brainasticscience.com

COMMUNICATION

- CLEAR, CONCISE DIRECTIONS
- VISUAL AIDES
 - SCHEDULE
 - CHECKLISTS
 - TIMER (SILENT)
- FREQUENT REMINDERS

SENSORY NEEDS

- FIDGETS
 - HANDHELD
 - CHAIR BANDS
 - PEN/PAPER
- MOVEMENT BREAKS
- ALTERNATIVE SEATING

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

- EARPLUGS/HEADPHONES
- WEIGHTED LAP MAT
- CALMING LIQUID MOTION BUBBLE TUBE
- QUIET SPACE/TENT
- SWING/HAMMOCK