

Module 1: The Autism Spectrum

Some Challenges That May Face a Person at the Severe End of the Autism Spectrum:

- “Severe autism” is not an official diagnosis but it does help parents, doctors, teachers, and therapists to explain that person’s level of functioning and need.
- Severe autism is sometimes called “low-functioning autism”, “profound” or “classic autism”. Simply put, it describes those people with the most significant symptoms on the ASD.
- Another way to describe severe autism is to talk about level of care, support and services required for a person with that diagnosis and how they can be supported appropriately in their daily life.
- They may be non-verbal.
- They may have an intellectual disability.
- Sensory challenges that can be extreme in some cases. They can suffer from heightened sensitivity.
- They may have repetitive behaviours and self-stimulatory behaviours. These behaviours can at times include challenging behaviours.
- They are very reliant on routine and may find changes to that routine very difficult.