

AUTISM AWARENESS

Triad of Impairments

Communication & Autism – Challenges:

People with autism can experience a lot of difficulties in the area of communication. Once again the severity of the challenges they face will dictate the level of difficulty they experience in this area. The difficulties are more pronounced at the lower functioning range of the autism spectrum where communication can be most challenging. It can also be difficult for people at the higher functioning range as they may lack the skills to engage and interpret the language and actions of others.

People with autism may experience difficulties in the area of Communication in the following ways:

- *They may be non-verbal and not speak.*
- *They may have limited expressive language.*
- *They may be unable to engage in a reciprocal conversation as they have limited use of language.*
- *They may have a very literal understanding of language and do not understand sarcasm or slang.*
- *People with High Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome may engage in one sided conversations about their special interests and obsessions.*
- *They may not be able to pick up social cues; for example when a person does not want to talk to them any longer.*
- *Issues such as person space, volume and tone of voice can be an issue for some people with autism.*
- *They can find it very difficult to read a person's body language.*
 - *They may find it very difficult to interpret facial expressions.*

