

# AUTISM AWARENESS

## Autism and the Individual

### Difficulties with Social Interaction:

High Functioning Autism (HFA) & Asperger Syndrome:

Many people with HFA and Asperger Syndrome want to be social and interact with others but find it difficult to do so for the following reasons:

- *Difficulties in making and maintaining friendships.*
- *Many people at the higher range of the autism spectrum can be socially naïve and lack understanding about friendship or strangers.*
- *People and children with High Functioning Autism or Asperger Syndrome want to be social and form relationships and friendships but don't have the intuitive or natural social skills to do so.*
- *Many people at the high functioning end of the autism spectrum may focus on the special interests that they have and be unable or unwilling to share the conversation with others.*
- *Many high functioning people with autism may have issues with personal space, volume and tone of voice and in following the to-and-fro of group conversations.*
- *Social anxiety can often prevent people at the higher functioning end of the spectrum from engaging in social interactions.*

