

AUTISM AWARENESS

Autism and the Family

How an autism diagnosis impacts siblings:

- *Siblings speak about how they get ignored as the focus shifts to the child with autism.*
- *They also have to deal with the reality of having a special needs brother or sister and the impact that this will have on their life.*
- *Parents are advised to make “special time” available with their other children to ensure that they are getting the practical and emotional support they need as they grow up.*
- *Some siblings speak of how they sometimes feel embarrassed by the behaviour of their brother or sister, particularly in front of their friends and peers.*
- *Other siblings of people with autism speak about “missing out” on things that other families do such as holidays, meals out and day trips. These types of activities must be planned by the families of people with autism and often get postponed or cancelled due to issues outside of the sibling’s control.*
- *A wonderful protective bond can very often develop between a child and their special needs sibling as they accept that their brother or sister is different and love them all the more for that reason.*

