

# **LANGUAGE AND GRAPHIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDIA AND PARTNERS 2022**



# NOTES TO MEDIA AND PARTNERS

- AutismBC has adopted a list of inclusive and neutral terms and imagery in order to create an inclusive and safe environment for our community members. In your communications, we recommend using the terms and images found in this guideline.

# AUTISM LANGUAGE PART 1

## To Use

- Autistic
- Autistic person
- Autistic individual
- Person on (autism) spectrum

## To Avoid

- Person with autism
- People with autism
- Person who has autism
- Individual with ASD
- Person affected by ASD

- Autism is not a disease.
- It is a neurological, developmental condition; it is considered a disorder, and it can be disabling in many and varied ways. It is lifelong. It does not harm or kill of its own accord. It is an edifying and meaningful component of a person's identity, and it defines the ways in which an individual experiences and understands the world around them. It is an integral part of identity.
- Use language affirming autism as an integral part of an individual's identity.
- Avoid person first language as it separates autism from the person as a separate entity.
- Always defer to an individual's preferences once they are known.
- Always validate an individual's perspective and feelings. Never argue perception and affirm feelings/experience as valid.

# AUTISM LANGUAGE PART 2

## To Use

- Support for ...
- Resources for...
- Therapy...
- Education about...
- Information regarding...
- Improving your/our...
- Addressing needs/concerns...
- Accessing or making something accessible
- Finding...
- Helping...
- Accommodations available...
- Find new ways to...
- Discover...
- Ideas for...
- Trying or Practicing...

## To Avoid

- Treatment for/of...
- Affected by autism
- Impacted by autism
- Cure, recovery, prevention, from/of autism
- Tragedy of, war on, eliminate autism
- Normal looking or become normal, regular, "like everyone else"
- Slow, simple, abnormal
- Fighting autism ...
- Eradicating autism ...
- Victim of...
- Afflicted with...
- Struggles with...
- Learn to...
- Breaking through the barriers of autism ...
- Handicapped
- Disabled
- Special Needs
- Differently abled
- Physically challenged
- Mentally challenged
- High/low functioning

- Use terms affirming identity while addressing needs.
- Do not use terms that reference autism as something to be removed, treated or changed.
- By using these terms, we recognize the value and worth of individuals as autistic persons; that being autistic is not a condition irreconcilable with regarding people as inherently valuable. We affirm an individual's potential to grow and mature, to overcome challenges and disability, and to live a meaningful life.

# AUTISM IMAGERY



The original puzzle piece logo, designed to represent the mystery and sadness that were associated with autism, in 1963



The neurodiversity symbol, designed to represent the infinite spectrum and diversity among those who are autistic, or are in any way, not neurotypical.

Fb/Just a minute my cape is in the dryer

Credit: [Just a minute my cape is in the dryer](#)

- When using imagery to represent Autism:
  - Please refrain from using the puzzle piece symbol or graphics as they could be triggering for the autistic community.
  - Please use the neurodiversity symbol (Infinity symbol with rainbow hue) to represent autism.



THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN CREATING  
AND MAINTAINING A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR  
THE AUTISTIC AND NEURODIVERGENT COMMUNITY.