

## AUTISM

### I HAVE AUTISM.

I have seizure-like episodes; sometimes I will scream, pinch, or bite.

DO NOT BE AFRAID. DO NOT OVER-REACT.

These episodes are not intended to be aggressive. They may last 1 or 2 minutes, or as long as 15 or 20 minutes.

Autism is a brain disorder marked by problems with communication, behavior, and learning. It is a severe disability which can cause unusual, even disturbing, behavior.

Autism is not well understood. Autism research has received very little funding in the past.

People with autism often do not appreciate danger or understand instructions, and usually require strict supervision.

They often appear deaf because they do not respond to questions or statements or warnings.

Some may harm themselves in various ways, and most people with autism develop repetitive, seemingly pointless, patterns of activity.

It has long been assumed that persons with autism could not live with their family in society and would inevitably be institutionalized.

Today, many families are challenging this assumption, and it is clear that most people with autism benefit from the care and love only a family can offer.

People with autism and their families should maintain their usual everyday activities, like eating in restaurants, shopping, and performing errands.

It is important that people with autism be accepted in society.

For more information phone \_\_\_\_\_.

Distributed by families and professionals working to improve the lives of persons with autism.

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