

Getting language right

- Many autistic people are proud to be autistic - it is part of who they are. They prefer the term 'autistic' e.g. 'he is autistic' or 'an autistic adult', never the noun e.g. 'an autistic'
- Parents may prefer 'on the autism spectrum'
- Don't use 'mild/severe autism' or 'high/low functioning'; instead say 'autistic without/with learning difficulties'
- Don't use 'non-verbal' to describe autistic people who speak few or no words. 'Minimally verbal' is more acceptable but should be avoided if possible.

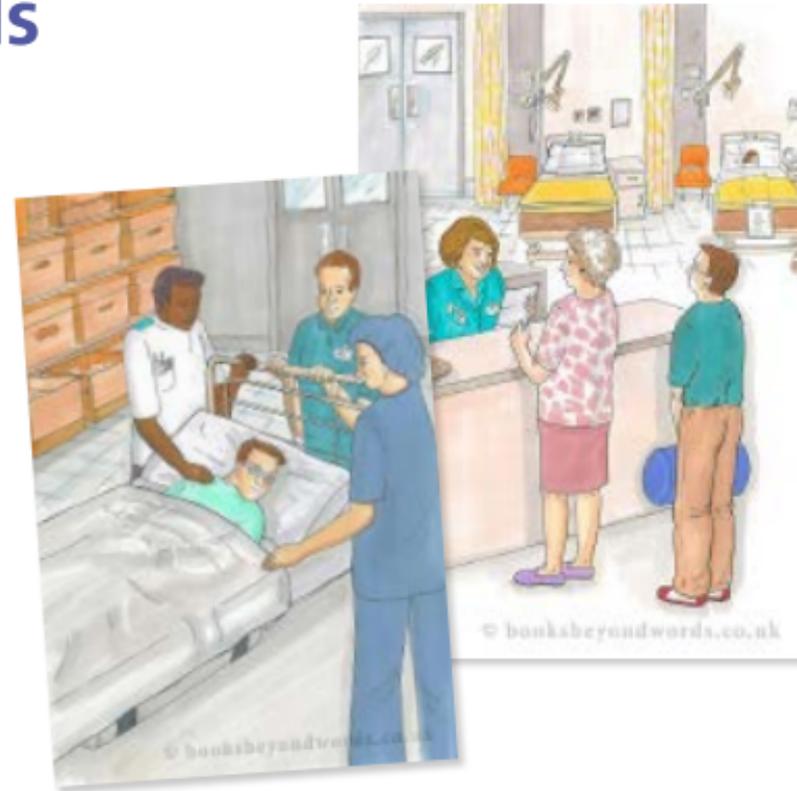


Taken from www.autistica.org.uk/about-us/media-communications-guide

Beyond Words

Beyond Words is a charity that provides books and training to support people who find pictures easier to understand than words.

The BW Story App is free to download from the App Store (for iOS/ Apple devices) and the Google Play Store (Android devices) - search 'BW Story App' to find it



<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk>



**Different,
Not less.**

Understanding
Learning Disability
and Autism in the NHS

 **@NotLessCampaign**

1.4 million people with a learning disability (LD) in UK - these may be mild, moderate, severe or profound

700,000 people in the UK with autism (more than one in 100)

40,000 people in the UK with Down's syndrome (one in 1000 babies)

“ I am different, not less ”
Temple Grandin

40 per cent of autistic people have a LD compared to 1 per cent of people without autism

60 per cent of those with Autism do not have a LD

175 per cent increase in deaths of people with LDs in social care during COVID-19

On average, life expectancy of women with LD is 20 years shorter, and men 13 years shorter, than the general population.

Median age of death for different levels of impairment:



Source: LeDeR 2018 Annual Report (May 2019)



“They won’t understand.”

“Having a learning disability is a reason for a DNAR.”

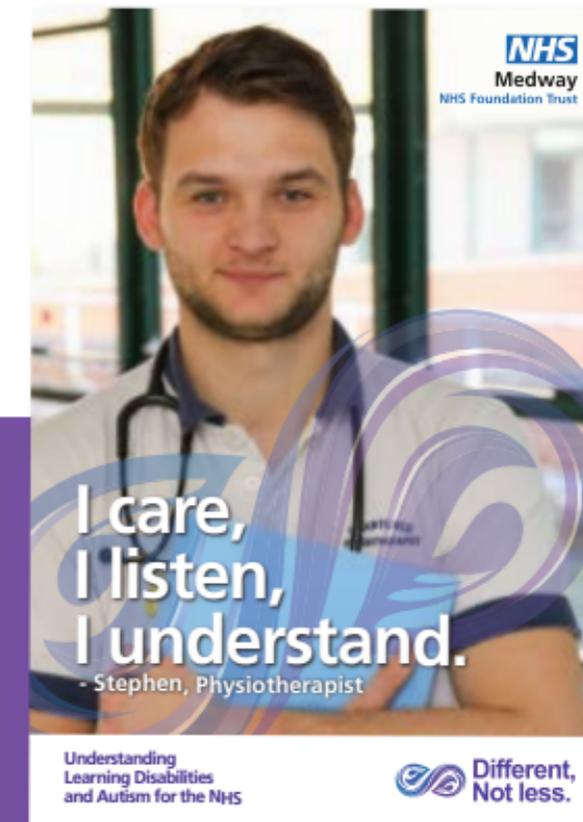
“They don’t feel pain the same way.”

“They won’t tolerate the treatment.”

“They don’t have a good quality of life.”



“We will treat our patients with learning disabilities or autism equally, listen to them and their families and not make assumptions about them which could affect their care.”



Different, Not less.