

Autism Awareness Social Story

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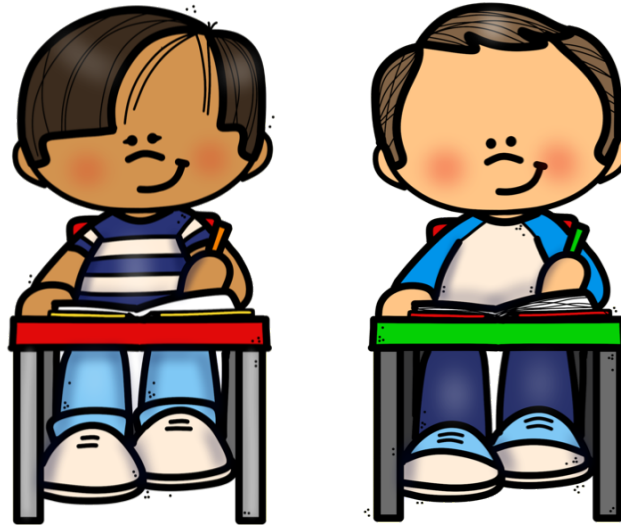
- 1). Cut each sheet of paper in half horizontally (on the dotted line)
- 2). Carefully line up the pages and staple them together along the left side
- 3). Enjoy your new book!

Sam's New Friend



By Carleigh Wrobel

It was the first day of school and Sam was a little nervous as he sat down at his desk. He turned to the boy next to him and said, "Hi, I'm Sam. What's your name?" The boy smiled, but did not look at him or answer. The name tag on his desk said Teddy.



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1

When class started, Teddy took out a tablet from his backpack. One of the programs on it had lots of words and pictures. Sam realized that Teddy could use his tablet to make comments or ask questions instead of talking out loud. It was really cool!



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2

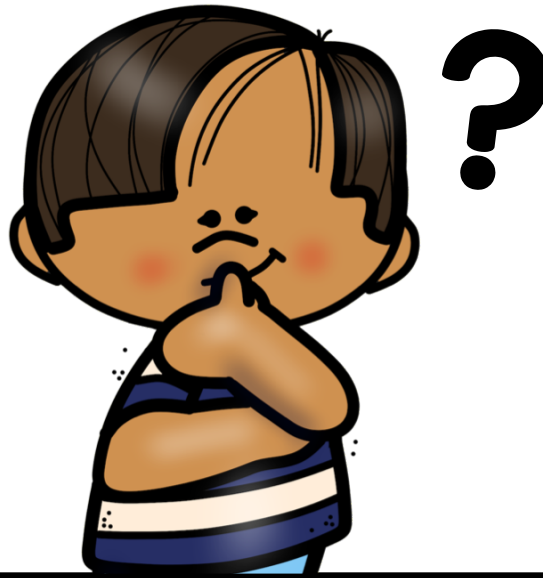
During reading time, another teacher came to give Teddy some extra help. She was really nice and made sure that he understood the story.



At math time, Teddy was way ahead of the class. He raced through the problems without getting a single one wrong! Everyone noticed how smart he was.



Finally, it was time for recess. Sam tried to talk to Teddy again, but he still did not answer or look at him. Sam decided to ask his teacher for help. “Mrs. K, did I do something wrong? I don’t think Teddy likes me.”



“Teddy has *autism*,” Mrs. K explained. “This means that his brain works a little differently from most people’s.

Like all kids, Teddy is great at certain things. He loves math and puzzles. “

“Other things can be tough for Teddy, like looking people in the eye, communicating, and following directions. Sometimes he gets overwhelmed by things that may not bother other people, like lights and noises.”

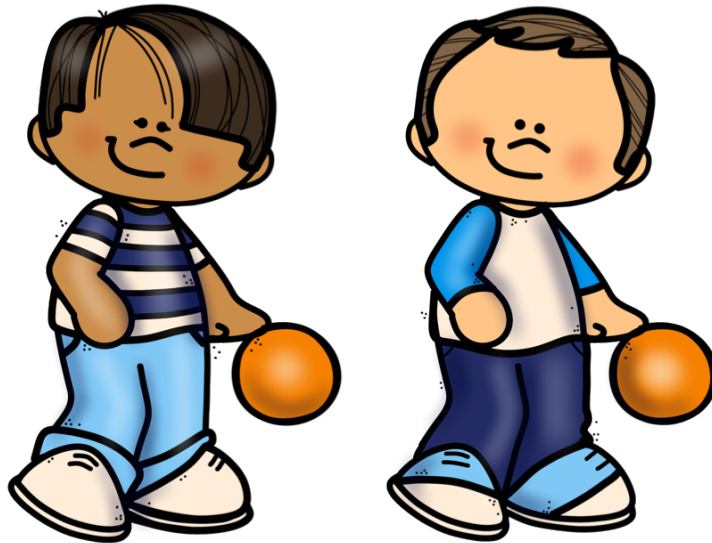


**Sam had never heard of autism before.
“How can I be his friend?” he asked.**

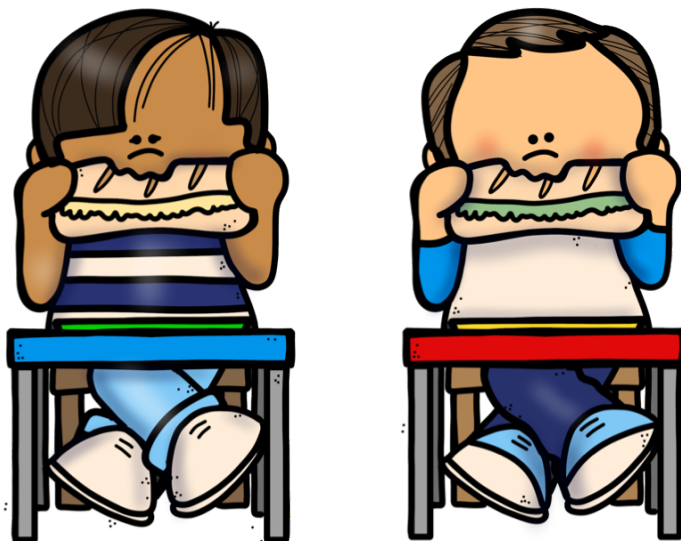
Mrs. K told him, “Just be patient and kind. Try doing the same activities as him or talking to Teddy about things he likes.”

Sam walked over to where Teddy was playing basketball and starting playing next to him. Soon, both boys were having fun.

When recess was over, Sam asked, "Do you want to sit with me at lunch?" Using his tablet, Teddy answered, "Yes!"



Sam noticed Teddy's lunchbox had animals on it, so he told him about his pet iguana. Then, Teddy showed him pictures of his dog. Sometimes Teddy rocked back and forth to stay calm, but it didn't bother Sam. He remembered his teacher's advice to be kind.



When it was time to go home, the two boys got their backpacks and walked to the bus together. Sam thought about what a great first day it had been. He couldn't wait to tell his family about his fun day and his new friend!



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11

Questions to Think About:

- In the story, how were Sam and Teddy similar?
How were they different?
- What did you learn about autism? What questions do you still have about autism?
- Do you know anyone who has autism?
- What are some ways you could be a good friend to someone with autism?

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12