



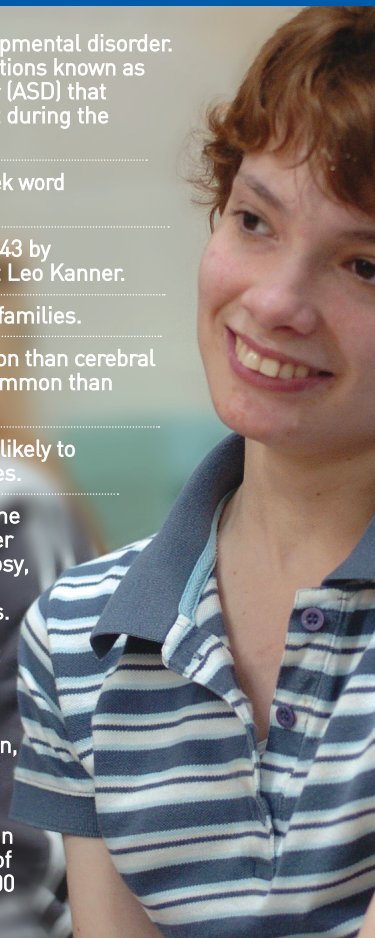
TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT Wirral Autistic Society

- 1 The Society began in 1968 and was one of the first of its kind in the country.
- 2 The Society provides residential, supported living, home support, respite, short stay breaks & community and vocational services to people with autism.
- 3 The Society supports people with autism from as far afield as Aberdeen and East Sussex.
- 4 38% of residents come from outside the North West & 38% of day service users come from outside the Wirral.
- 5 The Society offers people with autism therapeutic activities, real work experience and work placements, life skills, personal development, health and wellbeing and IT opportunities.
- 6 The Society has the only Family Support Service available on the Wirral and provides support to over 400 families.
- 7 The Society is a registered charity, but does not fund raise for salaries or running costs - only for capital projects needed to expand & improve the services offered.
- 8 The Wirral has more people with learning disabilities than the national average.
- 9 The Society provides the only drop-in information centre on the Wirral at the Wirral Centre for Autism.
- 10 The Society has the only purpose-built, autism-specific respite unit in the North West.



TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT Autism

- 1 Autism is a complex developmental disorder. It is part of a family of conditions known as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that typically becomes apparent during the first three years of life.
- 2 Autism comes from the Greek word 'auto' meaning 'self'.
- 3 It was first discovered in 1943 by American child psychiatrist Leo Kanner.
- 4 Autism affects 535,000 UK families.
- 5 It is four times more common than cerebral palsy and 17 times more common than Down's Syndrome.
- 6 Males are four times more likely to develop autism than females.
- 7 Autism is associated with the increased likelihood of other disorders - including epilepsy, dyslexia, cerebral palsy & general learning difficulties.
- 8 The causes of autism are not known and there is no cure.
- 9 People with autism need support with communication, social interaction and flexibility of thought.
- 10 Asperger's Syndrome is akin to a high functioning form of autism and only 1 or 2 in 200 have a special talent.



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