

# AUTISM: AT A GLANCE



## Quick Tips For Bus Drivers

### An autistic person may:

1. Not respond to you and avoid eye contact.
2. Have difficulties understanding non-verbal communication (facial expressions, gestures)
3. Be non verbal or have difficulty expressing themselves.
4. Be sensitive to sounds, touch, lights, temperature, smells, and movement.
5. Have difficulties understanding and expressing emotions.
6. Demonstrate repetitive behaviour such as: rocking, flapping, humming, tapping.

### Tips and Strategies

- Speak in short and clear sentences
- Give instructions one at a time
- Allow plenty of time for response
- Allow alternative communication systems (iPad, pictograms)
- Use gestures or model the instruction
- Inform the person before touching them
- Turn off radio or loud music
- Avoid strong smells (air freshner, cigarettes)
- Adjust vehicle temperature (heater, air conditioner)
- Inform of any route changes
- Try different seating arrangements
- Speak to parent and school staff for more information and support
- Give personal space
- Use visuals or pictograms provided by school or caregiver
- Remain calm and reassuring

