

# More Resources

Questions? Email Deb at  
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Put "ASD 3x3" in the subject line.

## What is a 3x3?

Three-by-threes are bite size brochures with quick tips and tools on important ministry topics for campus.

Each contains

3 important facts to know

3 common mistakes to avoid

3 suggested activities to try on campus

Top recommended resources

Find 3x3s online at [tiny.cc/3x3guides](https://tiny.cc/3x3guides)



# Welcoming Students with Autism

## 3 Things to Know

- 1 Autism is a developmental disability which affects three main areas: communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors or interests. The official title is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as each person falls at different points on the spectrum and is unique.
- 2 One in fifty-nine children have been diagnosed with ASD, according to estimates from the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. And autism is four times more common in boys than girls.
- 3 Individuals with autism often experience sensory overload and high anxiety. Loud or large groups with a lot happening simultaneously can be difficult. Smaller, quieter settings are often helpful.

## X Things to Avoid

- 1 Don't make snap judgments. Those with autism often appear uncomfortable and the reality is they are often misunderstood and mistreated. Students with autism want and need to be accepted and loved just like everyone else.
- 2 Don't assume ASD affects intellectual ability or go to the other extreme and assume everyone with autism is a savant. Everyone with autism is different and one size does not fit all!
- 3 Avoid sarcasm, at least until you get to know your friend with autism better. Those on the spectrum are often literal thinkers.



## 3 Things to Try

- 1 Due to the high incidence of autism many universities now offer specialized programs for students on the spectrum. Spy out the land on your campus and see what might be available.
- 2 For large groups or conferences, try having accommodations available such as noise reduction headphones and fidgets. A separate quiet, sensory room would be even better!
- 3 Befriend students or faculty who have ASD. Many people on the autism spectrum have special interests, such as video games or comics. Discovering and talking about these topics is a great way to build a friendship.

