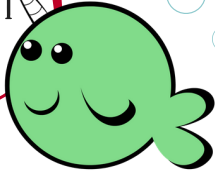


ASK A
NEURODIVERGENT
NARWHAL...



Neurodiversity is the diversity of our brains. It's pretty simple! There are all kinds of brains in this world and not one kind is better than another! Neurodiversity is an indisputable biological fact.

WHAT IS
NEURODIVERSITY?

NEURODIVERSITY IS FOR EVERYONE!

WHAT DOES
ACCEPTANCE
EVEN MEAN?

Acceptance means that we embrace our natural, autistic ways of being. It does not mean no help or therapies, but it does mean those things are done with respect to our neurology & where our dignity, autonomy, civil rights and voices are centered.

WHAT IS
AUTISTIC PRIDE?
WHAT IS
DISABILITY
PRIDE?

Some say that labels are bad or that they divide us, but labels can also be empowering. Autism and disability are not the only thing about us, but they are a big and important part of how we see and experience this world. Our labels can be a source of pride. There is no shame in being disabled or autistic, even though that is sometimes what the world wants us to believe. Who we are is actually pretty amazing!

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH
FUNCTIONING
LABELS?

Functioning labels are inherently dehumanizing. They are also inaccurate! We all have weaknesses and we all have abilities and most importantly, we all deserve the same type of respect no matter how we are able to communicate and no matter what you think we are capable of. To label a human being as "low functioning" is to deny our competence. To label a human being as "high functioning" is to deny our very real disabilities.

WHY SHOULD I
CARE ABOUT
DISABILITY
RIGHTS/HISTORY?

Disability Rights are Human Rights! Did you know that disabled people are the largest minority group in the world? Our stories and contributions are important and deserve to be told!

IS AUTISM
AN
EPIDEMIC?

Autistic people have always been here. Just because the word "autism" wasn't around, that doesn't mean autistic people did not exist. What has grown is our understanding of the beautiful diversity of our minds and brains! **NEURODIVERSITY!** That's not an epidemic, that's a pretty wonderful thing!

WHAT IS THE
SOCIAL MODEL OF
DISABILITY?

The social model of disability says that disability is socially constructed. We are not disabled by who we are, but by a society that is not inclusive or accessible to all people.

Autism is a complex neurological disability that affects sensory processing & communication. Autistic people are as diverse as any other group of humans, with individual strengths and weaknesses but we all experience this world in distinctly autistic ways. Lots of people think they know what autism is but the only real experts are autistic people!

WHAT IS
AUTISM?

WHY DO YOU SAY
AUTISTIC INSTEAD
OF PERSON WITH
AUTISM?

In choosing identity first language, we recognize that it is impossible to separate a person from their autism. Autism impacts how we see, experience and function in this world. We're not "with autism", we're autistic! Calling ourselves autistic is a declaration of pride in our identities!

WHAT IS
AUTISTIC
CULTURE?

Autistic culture is everywhere! It's our shared history, the way autistic people move, communicate, create, experience and understand the world around us in uniquely autistic ways. Our community, the autistic community is a beautiful thing!

WHAT IF MY
AUTISTIC LOVED
ONE DOES NOT
COMMUNICATE?

Everybody has a voice! Communication is more than just speaking. There are as many ways to communicate as there are to be human! All communication, whether it is typing, AAC, FC, signing, or behavior is valid! Every person has a voice and every voice matters!