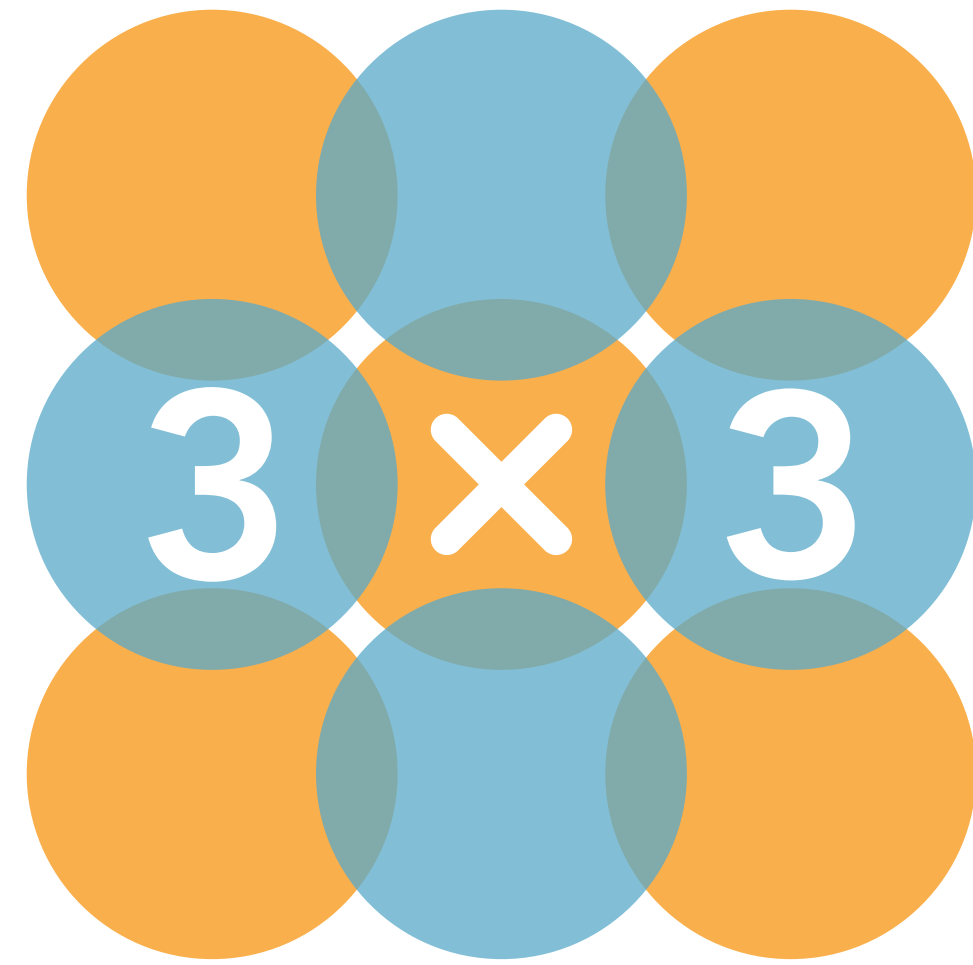




WELCOMING STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

3x3 resources give you quick tips and tools on various subjects.

- 3 facts to **know**
- 3 mistakes to **avoid**
- 3 activities to **try**



[The Access InterVarsity Library Collection](#)



Questions or Comments? Email: kathlyn.roffina@intervarsity.org
Put "Disabilities 3 x 3" in the subject line.

3 FACTS 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 1 in 44 children have been diagnosed with ASD. And autism is four times more common in boys than girls.
*According to estimates from the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network

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**.



3 MISTAKES 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 ACTIVITIES 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.