

MYTHS AND FACTS CONCERNING AUTISM

Myth: Autism is an emotional disturbance.

Fact: Autism is a neurological disorder.

Myth: There is a cure for, or people grow out of autism.

Fact: People do not "grow out" of autism. With early intervention and good educational programs the manifestation of symptoms may improve greatly.

Myth: Poor parenting causes autism.

Fact: Parents do **NOT** cause autism.

Myth: Everyone with autism behaves in the same way.

Fact: People with autism are individuals with strengths and weaknesses unique to them.

Myth: Children with autism just need more love and a good spanking.

Fact: Autism is not caused by a lack of love and is not cured by punishment. Parents need support to manage difficult behaviours with structure and consistency.

Myth: People with autism have to be in special programs for "the autistic".

Fact: Individually designed programs best meet the needs of a person with autism. They should be learning, living and working in settings where there is ample opportunity to communicate and interact with others who have the skills they lack.