



# "A New Member of Our Team"

## Worksheet

Name.....

"Great News".....We have a new team member. Sometimes a new team member may behave differently or act in a way that is not familiar to us. You may have a friend / family member or maybe someone who you go to school with who has autism or a similar condition, you will know that they will receive extra help with sports or activities, and that we need to be more patient or helpful to this person so they can be part of the group or class.

To help you understand better and to help our new team member settle in and be part of our group, we are going to spend a small amount of time filling in and talking about the information in this worksheet.



### We all have different strengths

We are all good at some things but not so good at others. In the boxes below, write or draw some things you are good at. In the other box, write or draw things you find difficult.

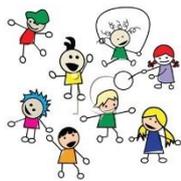
**I am good at:**

**I am not so good at:**

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## Let's Talk About

If a person has a wheelchair or is blind, you can tell these people have a disability. Autism is a special kind of disability.

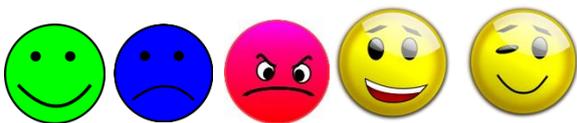


People with autism find it hard to know what to talk about or what to do when they are with other people. They can find it very hard to play or join in a game.



talking

You may find that a person with autism does not talk the same way you do. They may repeat what you say or talk a lot about the same thing. People with autism can find it extra hard to tell if you are joking with them and don't always understand a friendly teasing game. You might have to tell them "that was a joke" or "I was only joking with you" so they know that you are a friend and just enjoying some fun with them.



People with autism find understanding faces and expressions difficult. Sometimes when you smile at them, they may not smile back. This isn't because they want to be rude, or don't want to be your friend. It's just because they don't understand that you want to be their friend and you might need to tell them that "its ok were friends".



When you are small, you had to learn to be polite like saying “please” and “thank you”. You also had to learn not to point at someone and say rude things, or laugh at them for not doing something right.

Rules like these are really difficult to learn if you have Autism. If someone with Autism says something rude, they don't mean to be rude. It's ok to speak to a coach or ask an adult to explain to them that what they are saying is rude, and why it shouldn't be said.



All children sometimes behave in a way that seems naughty; children with autism don't always know when they are being naughty. Your coach or team manager may have to explain to them that something is wrong. Children with autism also find it difficult to play your games, they sometimes like to sit and watch instead. They may need to be told and shown how to play the game time and time again to show them how much fun it can be.

### Team Work

Go back to the list you completed on the first page. Choose one of the things you put into your good at box and one from the not so good box. Write your choices below.....

**Good At**..... This could be something you can show your new team mate. Something they might like to learn.

**Not so good at**..... This could be something your new team mate is good at? It's worth asking; we all have different strengths and use these to work together, that's what makes a team.



If there is anything in this worksheet you do not understand, please speak to your team manager or coach. We hope you enjoy having a new team member.