

PERSPECTIVE

An autistic person may:

- **Struggle to identify the needs and wants of others.**
- **Respond in ways that do not appear to be empathetic.**
- **Appear to be too straight forward or demanding.**
- **Not share in the interests of others.**
- **Not understand that others have not had the same experiences as them.**
- **Be unable to understand the thoughts, motives, and intentions of others.**
- **Be unable to predict the actions/reactions of others.**
- **Not be aware of or understand deceit.**
- **Be at risk around people who intend to do harm.**

Perspective Taking (Theory of Mind)

Knowing that others have different thoughts, ideas, and personal motivation from our own.

Critical for socialization, academic work, and personal problem solving for independent living.

Mental State Terms

“think” “know” “believe”
“expect” “guess”

Steps in Perspective Taking

One: When two people enter the same space, they each think about the other person.

Two: Each person considers the other persons intentions and motives. If something is questionable about one then the other will watch closely.

Three: Each person considers whether the other person is having favorable thoughts about them. They weigh how past interactions with that person may affect the current situation.

Four: Each person continues to watch the other. One or both may change their actions so the other will continue to have favorable or desired thoughts about them.