



## Social Imagination

Social imagination allows us to understand and predict other people's behaviour, make sense of abstract ideas, and to imagine situations outside our immediate daily routine.

Difficulties with social imagination means that some people with autism may find it hard to:

- understand and interpret other people's thoughts, feelings and actions.
- predict what will happen next, or what could happen.
- understand the concept of danger, i.e. that running on to a busy road poses a threat to them.
- engage in imaginative play and activities; some children with autism may engage in imaginative play but prefer to act out the same scenes each time.



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### *Ways to help a person with autism:*

- Use schedules/visuals to help the person predict what will happen next and inform them of any changes ahead of time.
- Diaries, lists and symbol cues can help a person organise themselves.
- Use visual cues to support understanding.
- Allow structured time for rituals and routines to be carried out.
- Allow structured time for special interests to be discussed and inform the person when this will be.
- Limit choice and make them clear to avoid confusion.