

Transcript

Understanding Autism

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Hello, I'm Ilona Roth, the lead academic for Understanding Autism. Autism affects many lives in the UK. For instance, it's estimated that around 1 in 100 people may be on the autism spectrum. You may have a friend or family member with autism, work with autistic people, or be on the autism spectrum yourself. If not, you may have gained ideas about autism from press reports, the internet, or a film.

With so much information about autism in the public domain, the question is how much of it is accurate? How can you tell facts from fiction? This free course offers a clear, balanced picture of autism based on the best sources of information at hand. This ranges from research and practice to personal accounts from autistic people and their parents. The course aims to help you evaluate ideas about autism for yourself.

You'll find many areas of debate, and appreciating different viewpoints is an important part of your learning journey. Over the eight weeks, you'll learn about the characteristics of autism, the different ways it may be expressed, and how it's diagnosed. You'll engage with ideas about what causes autism and consider areas of life where many autistic people experience challenges, as well as the kinds of help and support that are available.

The course looks at both childhood and adult life, and considers some cross-cultural issues. Materials include video and audio clips, as well as quizzes for you to test your understanding. If you're keen to find out more about autism, this course is for you.