

Autism from a Father's Point of View

by *Stuart Duncan*

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What to say and not say to a parent that has a child with Autism

by [Stuart Duncan](#) on MAY 30, 2011 in [AUTISM](#)

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I've written quite often about how having a child with Autism forces you to have far more patience than you ever thought you could have... but there are still limits. And even though your patience levels can seem limitless for your child, you may find that you don't have the same tolerances when it comes to others or some of the ignorant things they say, whether innocently intended or not.

There are a few lists out there of things not to say to us parents, but this is more of a list of things not to say or else you may just push us beyond the breaking point. Don't worry though, I'll follow it up with some things that I think would actually be nice to say.

Do not say

- Your kid just needs proper discipline
- My kids would never get away with that
- What made your kid autistic? Was it something you did?
- You shouldn't take your kid out if they're just going to be like that.
- Your kid doesn't look autistic
- Are you sure your kid is autistic?
- Why would you have more children if there's a risk they could have autism too?
- Have you thought about a group home or institution for your child, so that you can go back to having a normal life?
- Sorry, I don't really want my child to play with yours.
- Your kid is defective
- Your kid will grow out of it, right?
- Autism? That's like Rain Man, right?
- It must be nice to get special funding or special help!
- I hope my kids don't end up like yours
- You need to watch your kids better
- Maybe you're just bad parents
- But all children do that
- But your kid was so good for me
- Referring to your child with a nickname such as "rain man" or "stimmer"



Yes, these are actual phrases I've heard or have heard second hand (parents told me someone said it to them). Ok, now that your blood is boiling, let's continue on.

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This is a plea to the Minecraft community from the autism community for help on April 2nd.

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Here are some nicer things to hear.

Do say

- You're doing such a great job
- I don't know how you are able to do so much
- Your child is progressing so well, you must be very proud
- If I can help, just let me know.
- I don't know much about it but I'm willing to learn
- I've read some studies, heard the news but I'd love to hear what you think

I'd love to hear from you. What have you heard or what would you like to hear? I'll update this post with good suggestions.

Share the knowledge!



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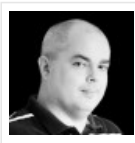
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About Stuart Duncan

My name is Stuart Duncan, creator of <http://www.stuartduncan.name>. My oldest son (Cameron) has Autism while my younger son (Tyler) does not. I am a work from home web developer with a background in radio. I do my very best to stay educated and do what ever is necessary to ensure my children have the tools they need to thrive. I share my stories and experiences in an effort to further grow and strengthen the online Autism community and to promote Autism Understanding and Acceptance.

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- [May 2015](#) (2)
- [April 2015](#) (3)
- [March 2015](#) (1)
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