



## Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

*Or... When is a spectrum, not a spectrum*

**ASD** is described as a spectrum because it describes a wide range of neuro-developmental differences that vary significantly from person to person.



<b>Level 1:</b>	*Requiring support	E.G. Difficulty initiating social interactions <b>[Formerly known as Asperger's]</b>
<b>Level 2:</b>	*Requiring substantial support	E.G. Having marked deficits in verbal communication.
<b>Level 3:</b>	*Requiring very substantial support	E.G. Severe impairments in day-to-day functioning.

### **But the Spectrum is NOT a Straight Line (Spiky Profile)**

Rather than a spectrum, the Spiky Profile describes autism better as a highly uneven distribution of abilities. Individuals may have profound strengths in certain areas while facing significant challenges in others.

