



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ESIPP

EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH
POSITIVE PARENTING

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME (PEP) CURRICULUM

TRAINER NOTES (AUTISM FACTS AND MYTHS)

Equity and Social Inclusion through Positive Parenting



After each statement, please put a tick or a cross in the corresponding box of the FIRST column to indicate whether it is a Fact or a Myth

1	Autism is just a type of learning difficulty.			
2	When speech starts, all the other difficulties disappear.			
3	Autism is a result of bad behaviour.			
4	Autism appears only in the middle-class population.			
5	It's a developmental delay that involves the brain.			
6	People with autism always have a genius ability.			
7	Autism is due to poor nutrition.			
8	Autism is a rare disorder.			
9	There is no link between autism and social or economic status.			
10	Autism is a lifelong condition. Children with autism become adults with autism.			
11	Individuals with autism are unable to live as active members of a society.			
12	Individuals with autism are all alike.			
13	Individuals with autism often want to make friends, but because of their difficulties in social communication and interaction cannot express and realize this desire.			
14	Individuals with autism have no eye contact and do not speak.			
15	There are more boys than girls diagnosed with Autism.			
16	People with Autism don't experience or show emotions.			



Answers for trainers only

1. **False** - Autism is a spectrum Disorder – therefore where there is Autism, it may also be accompanied by profound to moderate learning difficulty, right through to people with average to high IQ
2. **False** - When and if a child starts to speak, it may reduce some of the anxieties around communication, however, other Autism characteristics will continue to be present.
3. **False** - Behaviours are often the result of the impact of Autism on a child – therefore Autism led behaviours are as a result of Autism, and not the cause
4. **False** - Autism can be present in all cultures, classes and nationalities.
5. Autism is a Central Nervous System disorder which affects the brain's ability to process information – it is present from birth.
6. **False** - Only around 2 % of people with Autism are in the ' Savant' category – (specific genius in one area) – however most people with Autism have areas of difficulty which do not make sense compared with their areas of ability.
7. **False** - Autism is not the result of poor nutrition – it is present from birth.
8. **False** -Autism is not rare – figures show that generally across populations it stands at as high as 1 in 86.
9. **True** - There is no link between autism and social or economic status.
10. **True** - Autism is a lifelong condition. Children with autism become adults with autism, however the prognosis can be very much improved by early intervention.
11. **False** - With the correct supports and interventions, especially at an early age, many people with Autism live highly full and successful lives. Many people do not even become diagnosed until adulthood.
12. **False** – Whilst the core characteristics of Autism are consistent, everybody is an individual, therefore unique in how their Autism presents.
13. **True** - People with Autism have varying degrees of difficulty in difficulty in Social understanding and interaction – however, many do achieve interpersonal and lasting relationships.
14. **False** – some people with Autism have poor eye contact, but not all, and some may use speech, and some not. Everybody is an individual.
15. **True** – Autism is more likely to affect males than females across the spectrum there are differing figures, between 11:1 and 4:1
16. **False** – People with Autism do very much experience emotions, and can show emotion – they may have difficulty in understanding and expressing the emotions of themselves and others.



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