



National  
Autistic  
Society

World Autism  
Awareness  
Week 1-7 April

# Meet Bradley



Schools activity  
for World Autism  
Awareness Week,  
kindly sponsored  
by Axcis Education

The National Autistic Society is a charity  
registered in England and Wales (269425)  
and in Scotland (SC039427)

EYFS (England)  
Foundation Phase (Wales)  
Nursery and P1 (Scotland)  
Years 1-2 (Northern Ireland)

# Meet Bradley



This poem video about Bradley is designed for use in circle time during World Autism Awareness Week. It will help children explore the idea of difference: how we are all different, but, at the same time, there is much that makes us the same. They will also think about what they can do to help children like Bradley who are different.

This activity should take about 20 minutes. There are prompt questions in these notes to help the children engage with Bradley's story.



## Curriculum links – Early Years Foundation Stage

- **People and communities:** know about similarities and differences between themselves and others
- **Communication and language development:** speak and listen to develop confidence and skills in expressing themselves
- **Personal, social and emotional development:** develop a positive sense of themselves and others

## Learning objectives

To understand that we are all the same in some ways and different in others.

## Learning resources

- **Bradley poem video**
- listening cards

## 1. Starter activity

Tell the children that this is an important week in the school calendar when people come together to talk about difference – how we are all different (and that's what makes us unique), but also the same; and about what we can do to understand each other better.

Ask them to speak to a partner and find out two things that are the same about them and two things that are different (for example, likes pasta and chocolate, doesn't like apples or skateboarding.) Then have a discussion about how we are the same but different.



## 2. Bradley poem video activity

Tell the children you're going to share a short poem video about Bradley – a young boy who is just like them in many ways. He likes to do the same things they like to do. But there are some ways in which he is different, just as we are all different, which means he needs understanding and support.

Ask them to think carefully about Bradley while they're watching. What does he like doing? How is he the same as them and how is he different?

### Show the Bradley poem video

Then ask the children what they've found out about Bradley. What does Bradley like doing? (Playing with his toys, running, having fun, etc.) What doesn't he like? (Change, when things are loud or bright.) What do you think is different about Bradley? (He can't speak.)

Explain to the children that even though we are all different some children can find life quite difficult if people don't understand their difference.

For example:

- some like to do the same things every day and if something changes they're not happy.
- some people don't like noise, bright lights, certain types of food.
- some people find talking to people difficult.
- some talk all the time. Others don't talk at all.
- some people like to be with lots of friends. Others like to play on their own.
- some like to do all kinds of things; Others mostly like doing one thing.

Ask the children if they can remember from the film what Bradley's Mum does when he finds things difficult and starts to cry? (She waits. She gives him a hug. And a smile.)



Play video

## 3. Listening activity

Tell the children you're going to listen to Bradley's story again. Make copies of the listening cards, which feature key words from the Bradley story, and hand them out. Ask them to listen carefully and hold up their card when they hear the word that's on it. At the end of the activity help them respond to the questions on the back of the cards.



## 4. Plenary

After watching and listening to Bradley's story, ask the children to think again about how Bradley is just like them, but he's also different. Ask them to think about what they could do to support someone like Bradley. Explain that we can all help by being kind to everyone, even if they are different to you.



# Listening cards 1

[Front]

NOTE: these cards are double-sided.  
Please cut out and stick the front of  
each card to the corresponding back,  
matching the colour.



**Bradley**



**Mum**



**toys**



**cry**

# Listening cards 1

[Back]

NOTE: these cards are double-sided.  
Please cut out and stick the front of  
each card to the corresponding back,  
matching the colour.

**How does  
Bradley's  
Mum help  
him?**

**What does  
Bradley like?**

**What  
doesn't  
he like?**

**Why  
does  
Bradley  
cry?**

**What  
is your  
favourite  
toy?**

# Listening cards 2

[Front]

NOTE: these cards are double-sided.  
Please cut out and stick the front of  
each card to the corresponding back,  
matching the colour.



**hugs**



**smile**



**run**



**fun**

# Listening cards 2

[Back]

NOTE: these cards are double-sided.  
Please cut out and stick the front of  
each card to the corresponding back,  
matching the colour.

**Can you  
draw a  
smile?**

**What  
makes  
Bradley  
feel  
better?**

**What  
do you  
do to  
have fun?**

**How  
far can  
you run?**