



## **Autism Is More Common** **Than You Think!!**

- *Autism is the fastest growing disability in the UK today. 1 in 75 have some form of Autism and year by year this figure is decreasing.*
- *At least 1 in 3 adults with Autism experience mental health problems due to lack of support or because their needs have not been addressed early enough.*
- *More than 40% of children with Autism have been bullied at school.*
- *There are more than half a million people with Autism in England. 60,000 of these live in the West Midlands.*
- *22% of young people with Autism admitted that they had no friends at all. 65% said they would like to have friends.*
- *28% of adults with Autism live with their parents.*
- *1 in 5 children with Autism has been excluded from school, many of them more than once.*
- *If you include their families, Autism touches the lives of 2.7 million people every day.*
- *Nearly 2 thirds of adults with Autism in England do not have enough support to meet their needs.*
- *78% of young people with Autism say that outside their families people do not know enough about Autism.*
- *34% of people with Autism have waited 3 years or more for a diagnosis.*
- *Only 15% of adults with Autism in the UK are in full time paid employment.*
- *Many people with Autism are left handed.*
- *Many people with Autism have larger head circumferences and have difficulty finding a hat to fit them.*
- *Autism is 4 times more common than Cerebral Palsy and 17 times more common than Downs Syndrome. (Care & Health Magazine issue 39 June 19<sup>th</sup> 2003).*