

# Traveling with Lemonade



Judy Endow, MSW

July 12, 2008

# My Autism

is a neurological difference

in the way

my brain is wired.



"Harvard pediatric neurologist Dr. Martha Herbert reported recently that the excess white matter in autistic brains has a specific distribution:

- local areas tend to be overconnected,
- while links between more distant regions of the brain are weak.
- The brain's right and left hemispheres are also poorly connected.
- It's as if there are too many competing local services but no long distance."



"Studies using functional MRI show a lack of coordination among brain regions,

says Marcel Just, director of Carnegie Mellon's Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging in Pittsburgh, Pa.

There's a lack of synchronization, sort of like a difference between a jam session and a string quartet.

In autism, each area [of the brain] does its own thing."

## Same

- we take in info thru our sensory systems

## Different

- info comes in too big, too small or distorted; sometimes delayed

## Information may be perceived this way:



...or maybe this way:



Helping Hate Dissipate

pg. 72

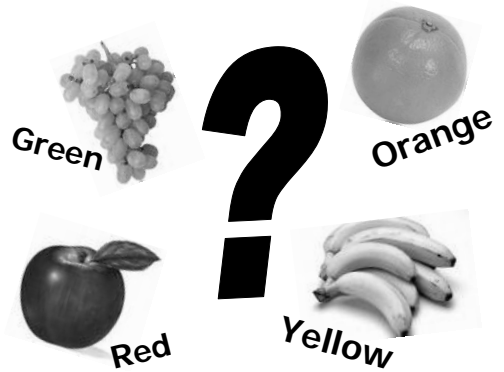


### Same

- we take in info thru our sensory systems
- we interpret the world around us

### Different

- info often comes in too big, too small or distorted; sometimes delayed
- usually in a literal and concrete manner



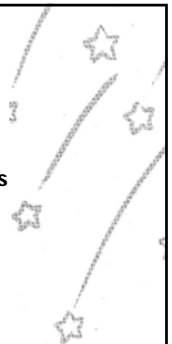
Take What?

pg. 70



Lucky Stars

pg. 71



**It takes longer to process more thoughts.**

**Maybe ...  
the person processing the most thoughts  
is the smarter person!**

### **Same**

- we take in info thru our sensory systems
- we interpret the world around us
- we think about things and ideas

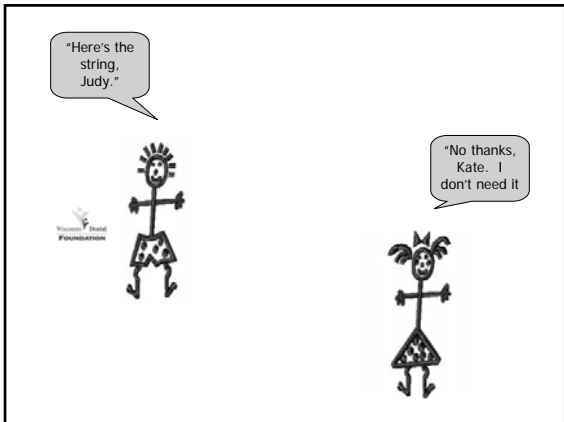
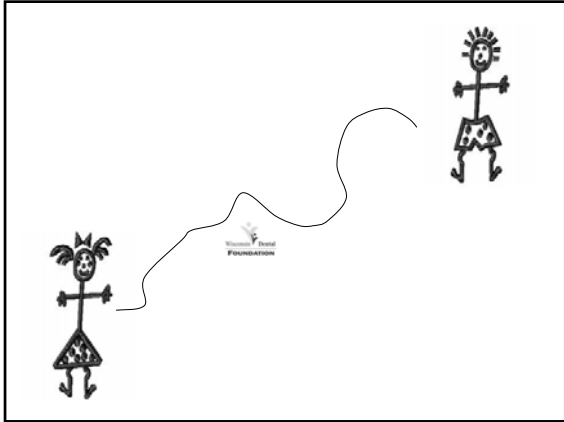
### **Different**

- info often comes in too big, too small or distorted; sometimes delayed
- usually in a literal and concrete manner
- most often think in pictures



## **Day Two in NYC**





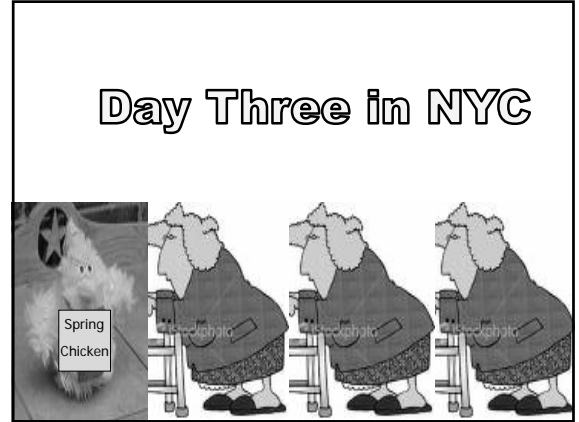
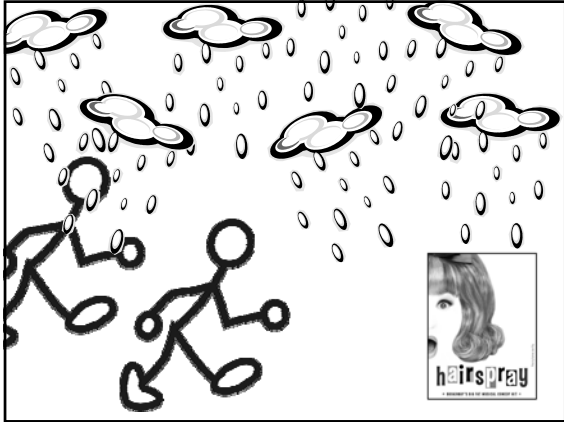
## Make Believe Stories

- "Now that we are doing something she likes, she will come join us at the table."
- "Yesterday she did it for Mrs. Jones. She must like Mrs. Jones more than she likes me."

## My Reality

- If I *wasn't* dizzy I went to the front table for group work. If I *was* dizzy and thought I might fall over I wouldn't leave my seat.
- I assumed that everyone experienced the world the same way I did.
- I thought everyone else was better and smarter than me.





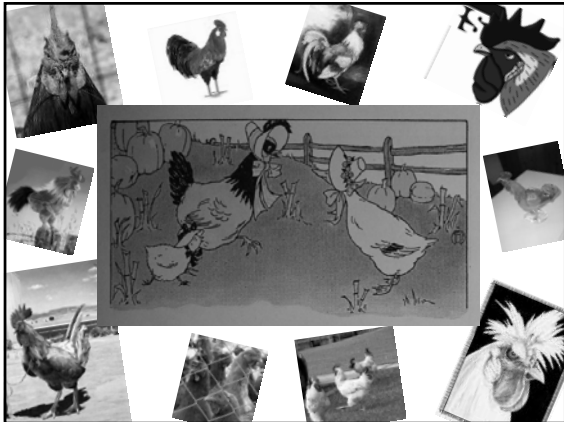
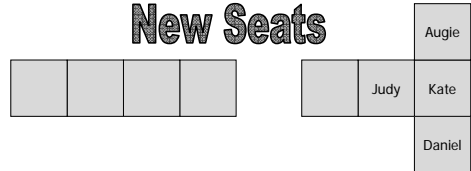
# Homeward Bound



## Original Seats



## New Seats



## Remember -

we are usually doing  
the best that we can  
given the neurology  
of our autism.

## Scatched Soul Sequel

### unpublished poem

...  
and this is how I come to understand  
I have a human place on earth  
knowing that I am but one of two  
individual matching human souls

choosing to walk together  
in this temporal space  
that now can be called  
"our world"



Thanks  
for  
coming!

[www.makinglemonadestore.com](http://www.makinglemonadestore.com)