# What is Neurodiversity?

A term for the naturally occurring variations of the human brain, which can affect the way that people think, learn and process information.

First coined by Australian sociologist Judy Singer in 1998.



1 in 5 people are said to be neurodiverse\*.

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME AUTISM
ADHD DYSPRAXIA DYSLEXIA

DYSCALCULIA and many others
are included under this umbrella term.



### Co-occurrence is common,

e.g. 18-45% of people with ADHD also have dyslexia, and 18-42% of people with dyslexia also meet the criteria for ADHD.

#### But no two brains are the same.

The neurodiversity movement aims to change perceptions of individuals with different minds, and move away from the existing 'deficit model'. It's crucial that we appreciate and celebrate the unique strengths of a proudly neurodiverse society, whilst also recognising and providing support for the challenges that people may face.

# The Neurodiversity Umbrella Project

Since 2017, we at the ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity have organised umbrella displays to act as a colourful, uplifting celebration of neurodiversity.

# Spiky Profiles

People with neurodevelopmental conditions often have particularly varied 'skill profiles'. For example, they may be very proficient in public speaking, but might have significant challenges with organisation when compared with their peers. Taking a person-centred approach and properly analysing the skillset of each student can greatly improve their effectiveness and enjoyment of their studies!

## **Executive Functions**

Imagine how an impairment in any or all of these areas could affect your studies - such challenges are common for people with a neurodevelopmental condition.







Organisation Emotional Control
Planning and Prioritising Impulsivity
Task Initiation Working Memory
Flexible Thinking Self-Monitoring







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