NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM

Helping the world to understand autism and people with autism to understand the world since 2003.

How do we help?
We are a provider of social and health services. We offer professional social counselling for individuals, families and institutions that look after individuals with ASD. Throughout the year, we run a residential facility for people with the co-occurrence of ASD and challenging behaviour. Within our early intervention programme, our team attends to families with preschool children that have ASD. Our psychiatrist and clinical psychologists carry out diagnostic procedures, while our psychotherapists hold both individual and group therapy sessions designed for training and development of social skills in people with ASD.

What is autism?
Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects a person’s communication and social skills. It is a congenital condition marked by altered development of the brain and its unique functioning which causes the child to think and behave differently to their peers. A typical example of a person with autism does not exist. The same diagnosis is shared both by people with above-average intelligence and with learning difficulties, by those who spontaneously befriend others and those who are withdrawn, those who are placid and those who are lively. Some individuals with this diagnosis require special education and constant care, while others are successful in their careers and lead an ordinary family life.

We are the founder of a special education center and a kindergarten designed specifically for children with ASD and of the social enterprise PASPARTA publishing that employs people with ASD. Last but not least, we also offer programmes of supported employment.

We organize educational courses, hold educational events (a year-long campaign “Porozumět Autismu” – “To Understand Autism”, the NAUTIS FEST, the APLAUS prize, etc.), a professional conference and educational exhibitions. The theatre ensemble Dr.amAS is active within NAUTIS, its members are mostly adults with ASD. The ensemble specializes in creative production inspired by personal experience of the members.

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