

Benefits and Risks of Social Media for Individuals with Autism

Ability to initiate contact with more people who have similar interests

Practice social communication skills

Online communication makes it harder to decipher social communication

Not knowing the "unwritten rules" of social media

Strong interest in screen-based technology

Removes the need to interpret body language and social cues

Ignoring social boundaries (e.g., cyberstalking)

Understanding the degree of relationships

You can take more time to respond to others

Difficulty understanding when information isn't real

Technology allows immediate access to information

Visiting unsafe sites to research preferred interests

Aids in learning new skills

Understanding language literally, concrete thinking

Source of fun and leisure

Ability to control your environment

May not think through possible consequences of online behaviors

May spend more time online than on social activities

