ASAN

AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

Easy Read Edition

Autism Research and the IACC:
Your Voice Matters!

Part 2: What is research?

Words to Know in Part 2

Research

A way that people learn new things about the world. Research happens when people try to answer questions or solve problems.

Researchers

People who do research as their job.
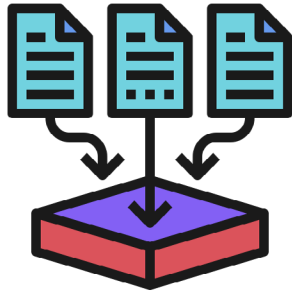
What is research?

Research is a way that people learn about the world.
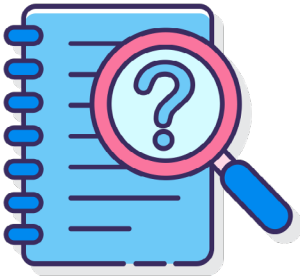
People do research to learn new things.
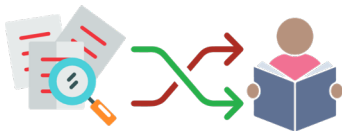
Research happens when people:

- Collect information about something

- Use that information to answer a question or solve a problem

- Share what they learned with others

Research is different from just learning about something.

People do research on purpose.

For example:

Keah goes to school. She learns about gravity.

Keah wants to learn more about gravity.

So Keah does a research project.

She decides to see how gravity affects different things.

She drops different objects from the top of her bed.

She sees they all fall at the same speed.

Keah tells her class about what she found out.

Keah's research helped her class learn more about gravity.

People can do research just to learn more about something.

But people can also do research to help others.

For example, research can help people who get sick.

Some people research how to make medicines.

Their research happens in a lab. They work with chemicals.

Other people research how to help people get health care when they need it.

That research might focus more on talking to doctors. They might also visit hospitals.

Both of these kinds of research are important.
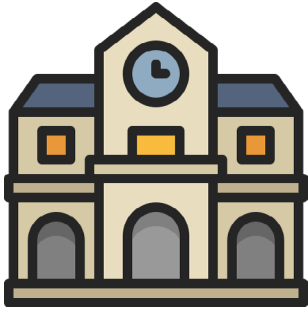
People who do research are called researchers.

Anyone can do research. That means anyone can be a researcher!

But some people do research as their job.

In this toolkit, we use the word "**researcher**" to talk about people who do research as their job.

Some researchers work for colleges.
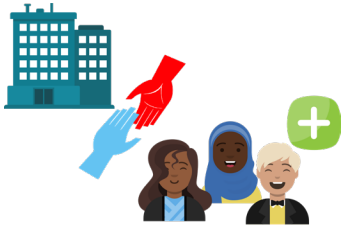
Others work for the government.

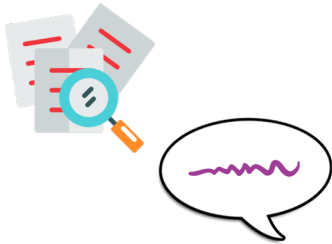And others can work for different places, like businesses.

For example, researchers might work for a health insurance company.

They do research to see if the company is doing a good job.

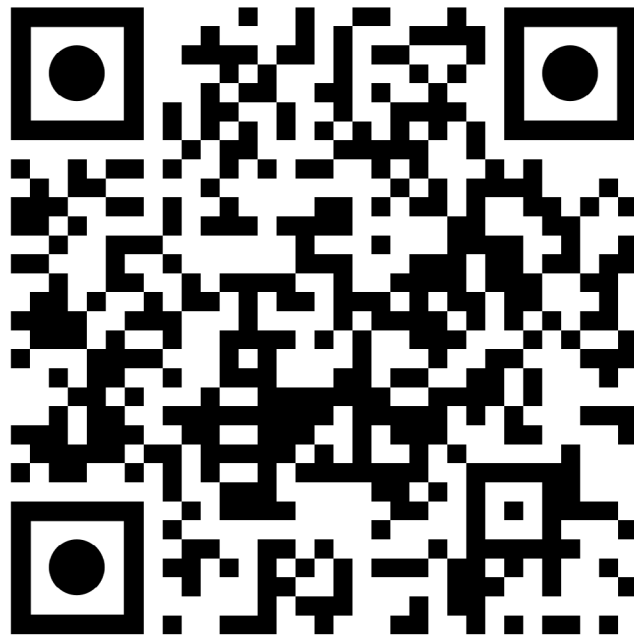They figure out how the company can help more people.

People use different words to talk about research.

When someone does research, it gets called a research project or study.

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