



Easy Read Edition

Autism Research and the IACC: Your Voice Matters!

**Part 5: Why does autism
research matter?**

Words to Know in Part 5



Policy

A rule or law the government makes.



Research

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



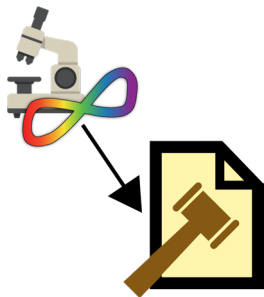
Researchers

People who do research as their job.

Why does autism research matter?



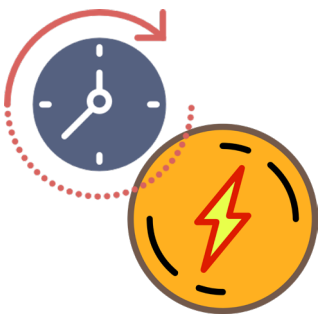
Autism research is really important.



That's because research affects policy.



A **policy** is a rule or law the government makes.



Making new policies takes a lot of time and energy from the government.



So the government wants to make sure they pass good policies.

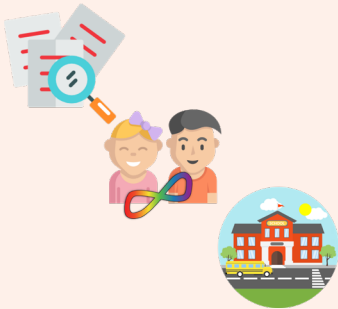


They look at research to see what they should do.

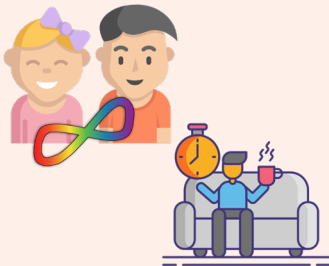
Here is an imaginary example of how research can affect policy:



Dwayne is an autism researcher.



He researches how autistic kids do in school.



He finds out autistic students need a lot of breaks to do well in school.



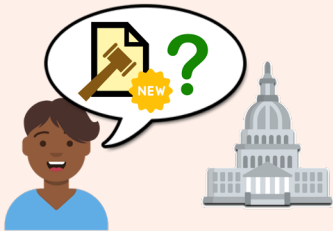
But he finds out most schools don't have quiet space for students.



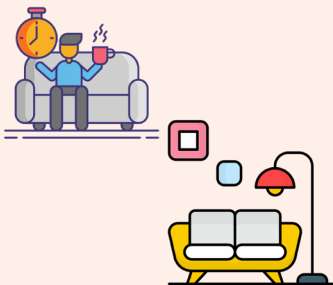
There is nowhere to take a break if someone needs one.



That makes it a lot harder for autistic kids to learn.



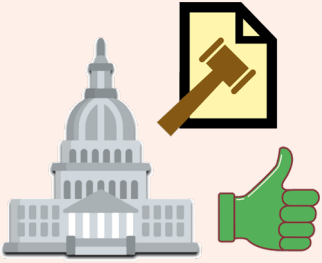
Dwayne asks the government to make a new policy.



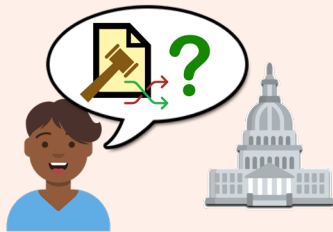
This policy would tell schools to make a break room that students can choose to use.



Dwayne's research shows how the policy would help a lot of students.



So the government passes the policy.



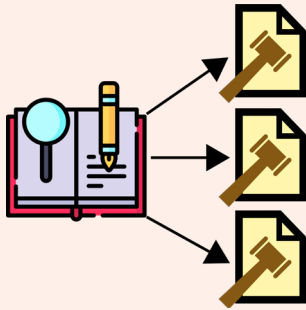
Dwayne could also ask the government to make a different policy.



He could ask for more breaks to be put in school schedules.



That would also help autistic students.



One research project can affect policy in many different ways!



Most autism researchers are not autistic themselves.



Doing research as a job is hard. It's hard even for non-disabled people.



But it can be extra hard for disabled people.



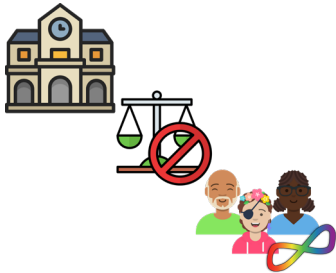
Research gets written using long, difficult words.



And most research jobs make their workers get college degrees.



It can be harder for disabled students to pay for college.



And college can be an unfair place for autistic students.



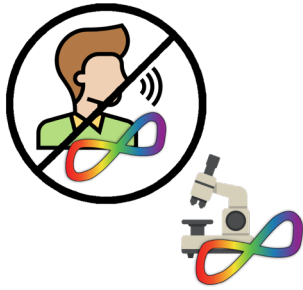
That's why not everyone can get a degree.



That means not everyone can become researchers.



That isn't fair!



Our voices get left out of conversations about autism research.



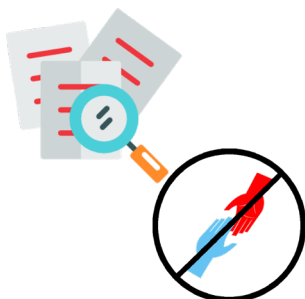
Not many autistic people become researchers.



And many autism researchers don't try to talk to autistic people.



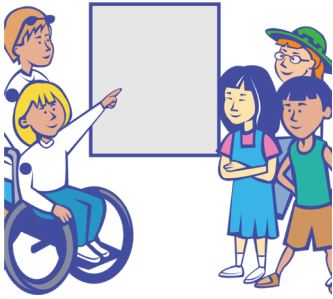
That's why autism researchers come up with bad research questions.



These questions don't help autistic people live better lives.



That's why researchers need to hear from autistic people.



Nothing about us, without us!



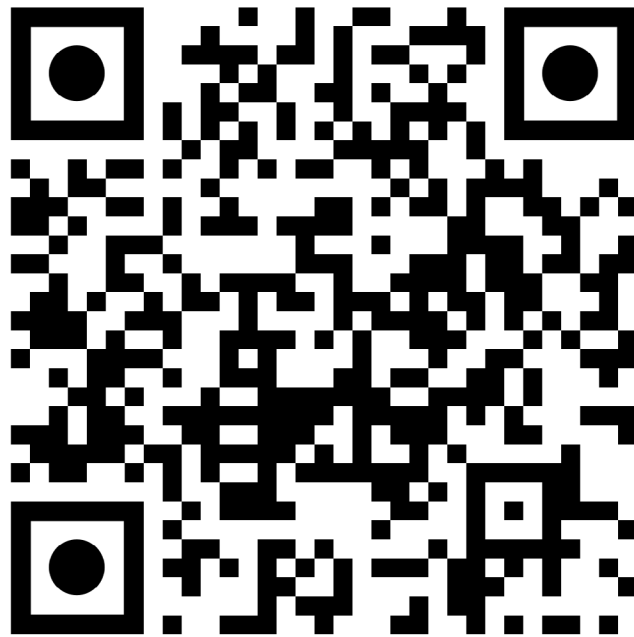
There is one big thing you can do to affect what autism research gets done.



You can talk to the IACC!

Want to share your thoughts on
this toolkit?

Take our survey!



Scan this code with your phone
to go to our survey.

Or, go to

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/
ASANresource](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASANresource)
