

A young girl with dark skin and a joyful expression is holding a light-colored cardboard sign with the word "HOPE" written on it in black, hand-drawn letters. She is wearing a pink dress with white polka dots. The background is a bright, solid yellow. To the left of the girl, there is a large, stylized ribbon made of interlocking puzzle pieces in red, blue, and yellow. The overall image conveys a message of optimism and support for autism.

Autism, Adulthood and Employment

HOPE



Hello!

I am Mrs Dotun Akande Bsc. CAS

Director

Patrick Speech and Languages
Centre

Many adults with Autism in Nigeria get their diagnosis much later in life. This is because Autism is still relatively new in our environment and many of our adults were misdiagnosed in the past thereby reducing their quality of life



What can we say is Autism ?????

Diagnosis / Prevalence in Nigeria

Cause

Can we prevent it

Treatment



Adults living with autism often have difficulty finding information about programs and support that would enable them live independently .



Although some individuals with ASD are able to successfully transit, most are faced with significant obstacles in multiple areas as they attempt to integrate into the community and independent living.



Society's Misconception



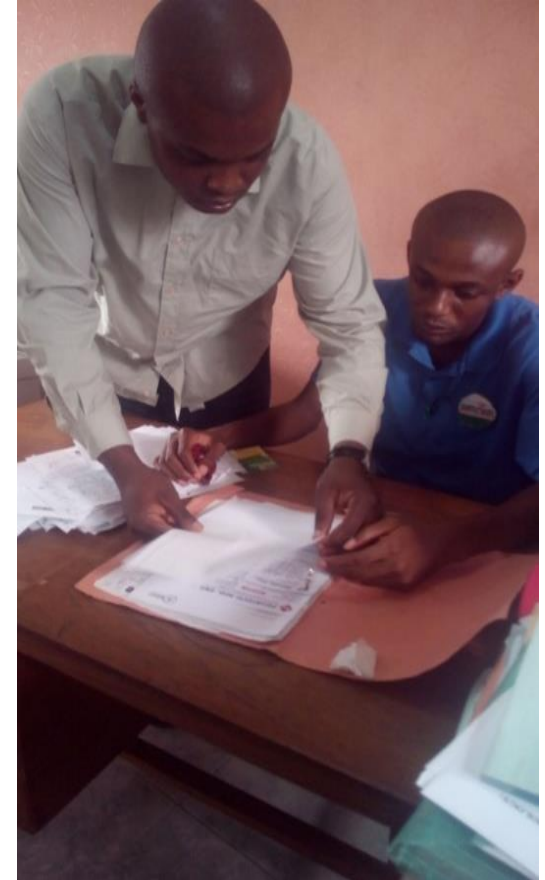
- “Society is not autism friendly,” autism is still viewed as a disease and severe disability, but we intend to change this misconception.

- Transition to adulthood can be challenging but also exciting. Advance preparation and support is needed to assist the young adult with autism get a good start to the next chapter of his/her life.

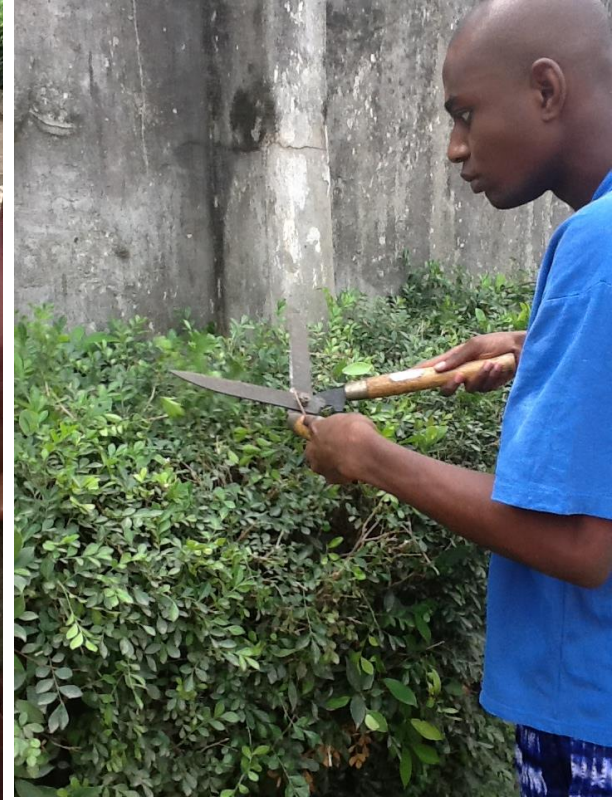
At Patrick's, Adults within the ages of 18- 37 living with Autism are given the opportunity to explore and display most of the skills taught through out their therapy time.



Some of the adults are engaged in work programme depending on their interest. They work at the centre two days a week and they are in class three days a week. They are paid a stipend for the two days.



Some have skills in Administrative services (working in an office setting), While others have skills in vocational services.



This is a demonstration of one of our adults been taught how to use the photocopier using Landscape and Portrait setting..



By teaching the recognition of the buttons on the photocopying machine, knowing how to place paper appropriately on the photocopying glass as well as the paper in the loading tray appropriately, adult on the spectrum build up their cognitive skills.



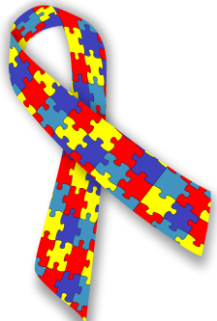
They also work in the group class teaching labeling and identification skills to our younger children.



Other skills they are engaged in include shopping, **carpentry and gardening**. The adults learn how to identify the **Nigerian currencies**, add up and buy from the classroom shopping corner, some of the adults can perform these skills outside of the school in a real supermarket and in the home setting.



Some of them
can identify the
currencies and
some can add
up to 5
currencies.



Teaching Aids/ Method



- Picture Illustration
- Teaching Coach
- Task analysis
- Token Economy
- Reinforcement System

Learning Outcome



- Active Listener
- Problem Solving
- Speaking at appropriate times
- Time Management
- Proper Manners
- Team Work

Benefit of our Adults Programme



- Helps us enhance their hidden talents
- Improves their social communication
- Improves their quality of life. This does not come easily to adults on the spectrum
- Teaches them how to advocate for themselves
- Adds value to their life both practically and emotionally

Earning a salary helps increase their self worth and build up their confidence.



Who can help
build this up



You can help by
getting the right
training and
qualification.

CONCLUSION

Autism awareness is not just about getting children into schools, it is also about creating opportunities for an inclusive society; it is about acceptance and recognizing that our individuals with autism can live successful lives if we give them the opportunity.

It is never too early to start preparing our young adults for employment the earlier the better.





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Thanks!

Any questions?