



**Theme**  
**Life Beyond  
the Diagnosis**





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# ADVOCACY AGAINST SOCIAL STIGMATIZATION.

A PRESENTATION AT THE 11TH GUARANTEE TRUST  
BANK ANNUAL AUTISM CONFERENCE 2021

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Agip Hall, Muson Center  
Lagos, Nigeria.

Presented By:

**Mrs. Beauty Kumesine**

Founding Executive Director  
Blazing Heart Autism Center



# DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know that **JELLOF RICE** originated from **SEMEGAMBIA**?

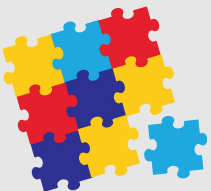




# AUTISM

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neuro-developmental disorder characterized by the following:

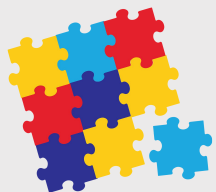
- Difficulties in social communication differences, including verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Deficits in social interaction
- Restrictive and repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities and sensory challenges.



## Reactions to the Autism diagnosis by parents

From observations, the initial reaction is:

- Denial
- Disbelief
- Anger
- Fear
- depression
- Stigma





## It still Hurts

Stigmatization comes in different ways and different degrees but it HURTS....

- That little girl is.....👉



## The Stigma

Stigma involves negative attitudes or discrimination against someone based on a distinguishing characteristic such as a mental illness, health condition, or disability.

According to Marisa D. Serchuk et al 2020  
Parents of child with ASD often face two major kinds of stigma.

- a. **Vicarious stigma** otherwise known as **social/public stigma.**
- b. **Self-stigma.**





# COPING STRATEGIES



Seek professional help



Play often with your child



Join a support group



stay focused on the child's welfare



Talk to someone



Understand that your child is unique

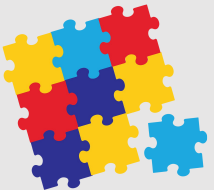
## Stigma coping





# Staying on course

- Acceptance
- Management of autism
- Collaborations



## CHARGE

1. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS A PARENT, NO ONE KNOWS YOUR CHILD BETTER THAN YOU DO.
2. YOU HAVE BEEN THERE SINCE THEIR FIRST BREATH.
3. THERE IS NO BETTER ADVOCATE FOR THEIR NEEDS OTHER THAN YOU.







THANK  
YOU

A young child with dark curly hair is playing with colorful blocks. The child is wearing a white shirt with a blue and green patterned collar. The background is blurred, showing a red wall and a wooden surface. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Questions & Answers".

# Questions & Answers



A close-up photograph of a basket filled with ripe, dark purple grapes. The grapes are clustered together, and their glossy skin reflects light, giving them a vibrant appearance. The basket's woven texture is visible at the edges.

**Do you know  
this fruit?**

# Contact details

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+2348029998884



Blazingheartcenter



BlazingheartPHC



BlazingHeartfoundationng



31C, Ohiamini Close, Eligbolo.  
Rukpakulosi Town. Port Harcourt.

Rivers State. Nigeria.



[www.blazingheartfoundation.com](http://www.blazingheartfoundation.com)



[info@blazingheartfoundation.com](mailto:info@blazingheartfoundation.com)

