

APRAXIA & NONSPEAKERS

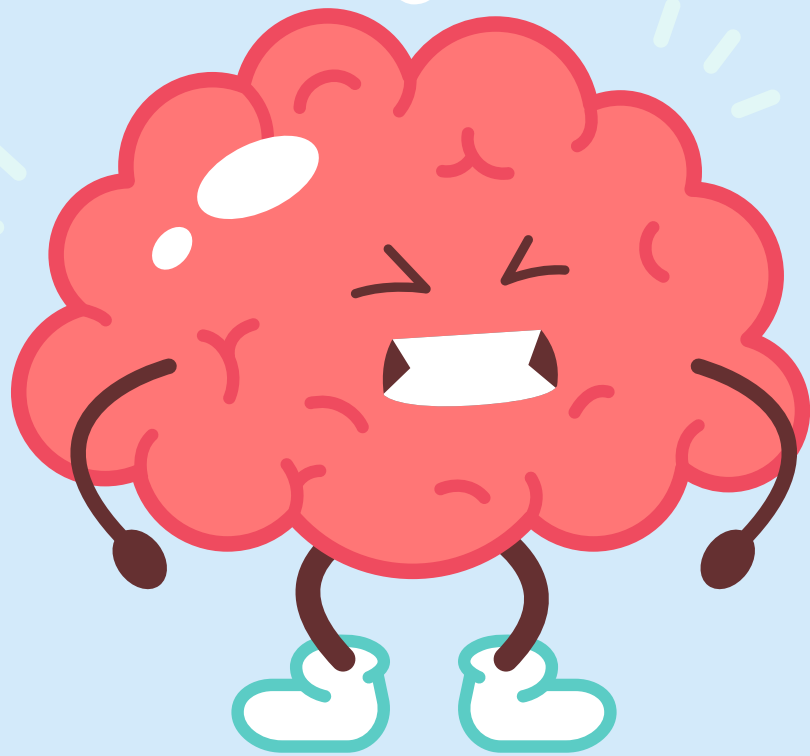
A NEUROINCLUSIVE INTRODUCTION
TO THE BRAIN-BODY DISCONNECT



Just say
"Hello."

What is Apraxia?

Apraxia is a disability that is often called "the brain-body disconnect" because the brain cannot always get the body to do what the brain wants.



Some people have a hard time saying what they want, and others have a hard time moving how they want. Some people with apraxia struggle with both speech and moving how they want.

MEOW



Apraxia and daily life

Because people with apraxia can't always get their bodies to cooperate, lots of things most people can do whenever they want can be really hard for them. Like:

- speaking
- smiling
- writing
- typing
- looking in the right direction
- giving a hug
- tying shoes
- coloring in the lines
- opening jars
- doing chores
- starting new things

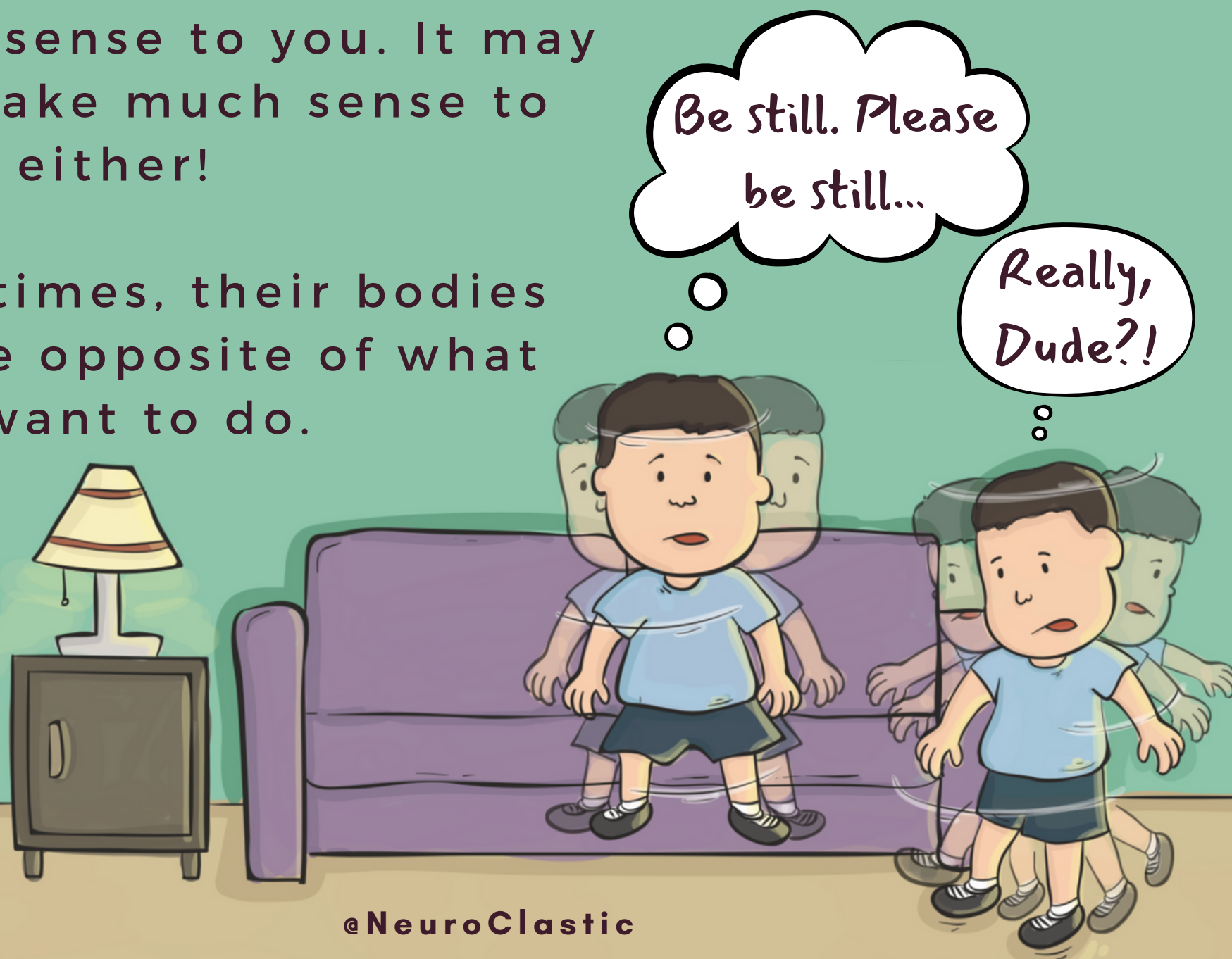


The body moves by itself!

A lot of Autistic people with apraxia have bodies that do things they do not want to do!

Sometimes, they may do things that do not make sense to you. It may not make much sense to them, either!

Sometimes, their bodies do the opposite of what they want to do.



Moving on accident

Sometimes, people with apraxia and other movement disabilities like Tourette's do things they really do not want to do, like:



- Run away from the park when they want to play
- Clap or make sounds when they want to be quiet
- Say things over and over they don't want to say
- Throw something they want to play with
- Laugh when nothing is funny



Apraxia is hard work!

Because of apraxia, Autistic Nonspeakers do a lot of hard work trying to get their bodies to do what their minds want.

Some days may be easier than others. Being happy, sad, tired, ill, or bored can make a difference.

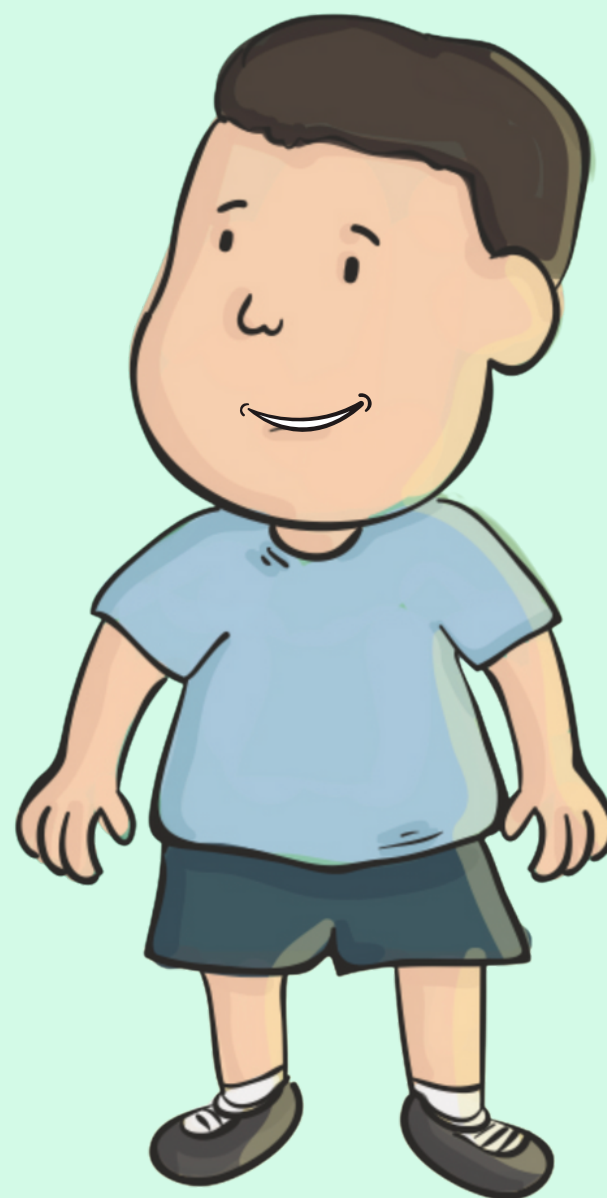
It takes a lot of focus to stop an unruly body from moving on its own.

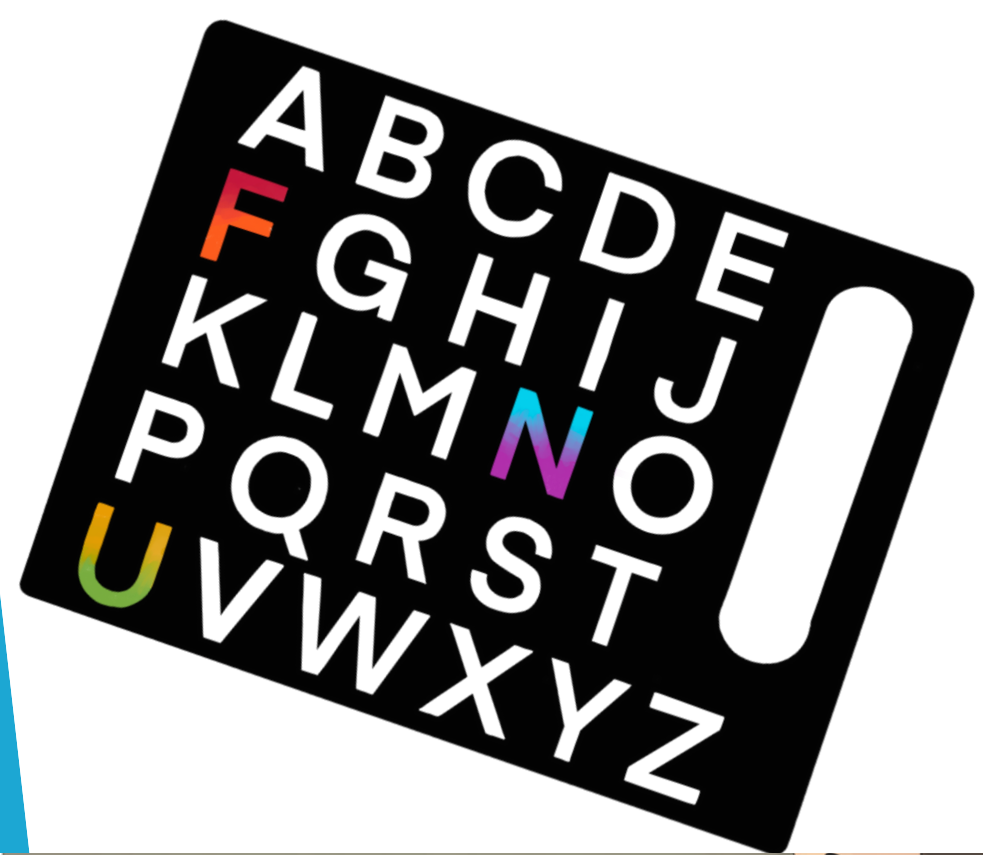
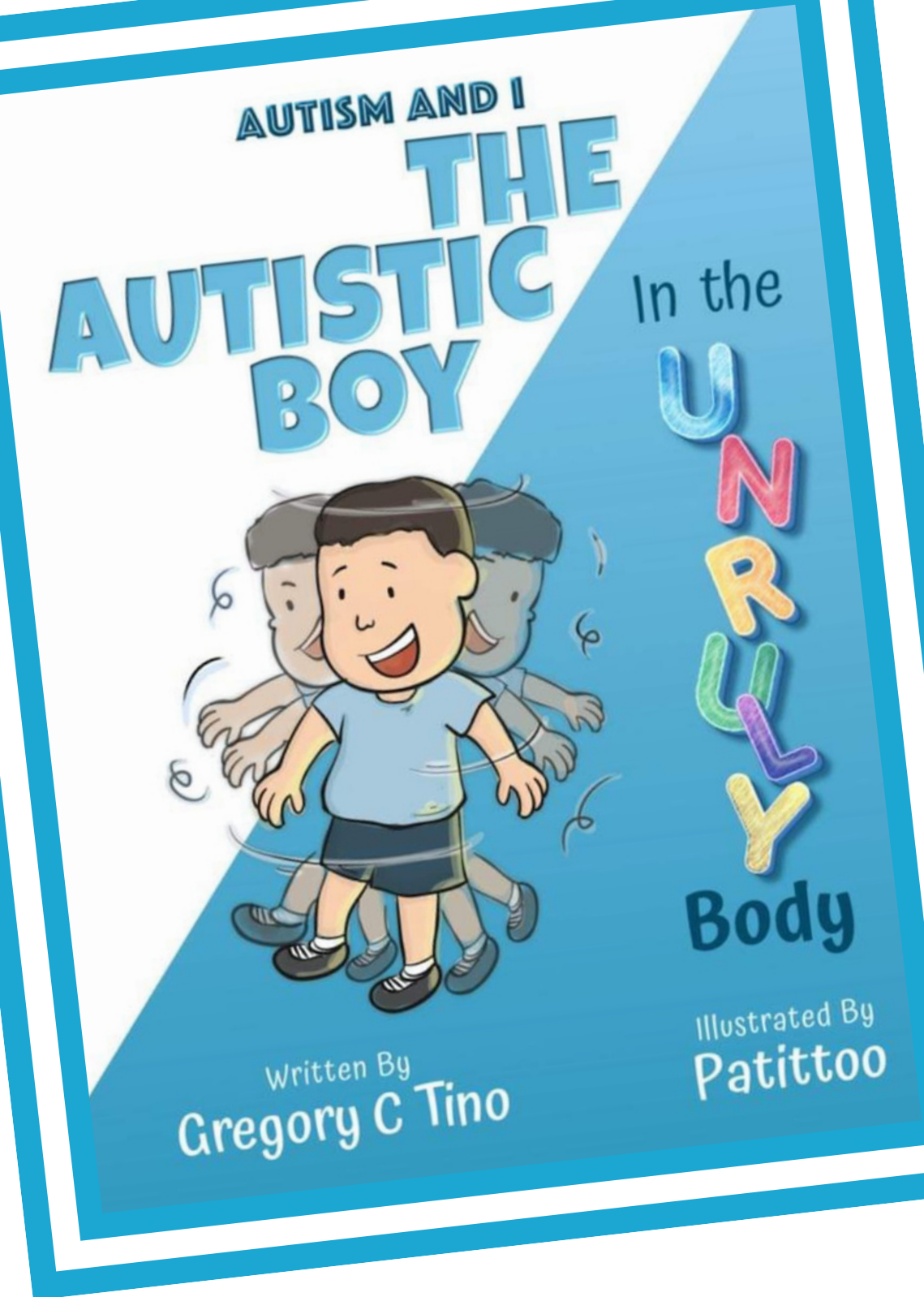


How can you know your friend with apraxia is listening and understands?

It can be hard to know if your apraxic autistic friend understands you or is listening.

They can't always show you. Just speak to them the way you would with your other friends! Even if they can't always respond the way they want, that doesn't mean they don't understand.





This NeuroInclusive story was written as a companion to Gregory Tino's picture book, *The Autistic Boy & the Unruly Body*. The illustrations come from Gregory's book and were used with his permission.