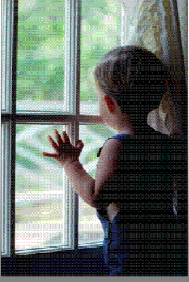


*Help support The Friendship Network and you will help children with Autism make friends for the first time!*



## **Autism**

**By Adam Midgette**

**The Friendship Network for Children is a nonprofit organization in Northborough, MA whose mission is to increase the quality of life for children with Autism.**

**I have Autism,  
Autism does not have me.**

**Autism is not my curse,  
For I see it in a different light.  
All I do is see things differently.**

**Autism is not a shackle,  
It is not a chain to hold me back.  
To me, Autism is a lens.  
Some things are blurry,  
And difficult to make out,  
But others are easy to see.**

**To me, Autism is just a lens,  
A view.  
Mine is shaped differently than any of yours.  
But, I am no better nor less than any of you.  
I just see in a different way,  
A different perspective.**

**To most of you, friendship comes easy.  
To me, it is an extreme undertaking,  
A laborious process that usually yields nothing.**

**Here is the flip side,  
Where I have the advantage.  
You probably have a subject you can't understand,  
Like math.  
To me, these things come easily,  
I don't even need to study.  
Ever.**

**It's just a different perspective,  
We are different, But are no better,  
And no worse.**



100 Otis Street #4,  
Northborough, MA 01532  
Ph: (508 393-0030 \* Fax:  
(508) 393-0112  
[www.networkforchildren.org](http://www.networkforchildren.org)

***Since coming to The Friendship Network for Children, I have made real friends for the first time in my life. I'm happier than I've ever been. This is a safe haven that I actually want to come to.***

***—Adam Midgette***