

SEND SUPPORTED

Thoughts on friendship

From "Speaking for Themselves: The Thoughts and Words of Individuals with Autism"
(Julie A Donnelly, Autism99 Paper, 1999)

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Friendships have always meant a great deal to me. One of the myths about autistic people is that they don't care about other people. That is simply untrue. If anything, I was always over intense about other people. I desperately wanted to be accepted. I used to be terrified of losing any friend that I made. Unfortunately, because of my kindness, I was sometimes taken advantage of. Now I am not nearly so anxious about pleasing everybody, although I am still anxious sometimes. I think I am learning more about other people's thoughts and motivations and that they might say one thing and act in a different way.