

IN A DIFFERENT KEY:  
THE AUTISM UNDERSTANDING TOOLKIT

# AUTISM WITHOUT PRIVILEGE



## INTRODUCTORY CONTEXT

(suggested)

More than anyone, it's usually families – parents, grandparents or siblings – who provide most of the care and support for an autistic child. IN A DIFFERENT KEY shows how the family of Donald Triplett, the first child diagnosed, had the resources to deliver that support. But many families do not. IN DIFFERENT KEY also brings the story of Jayson and Sheamus, a father and son who have each other but not much else. As you watch, remember that most treatments and therapies for autism cost tens of thousands of dollars a year. And even though schools are supposed to deliver some of these services, those in less well-off communities are underfunded and often unable to provide the full range of support necessary for a child with severe autism.

## KEY THEMES

- The challenge of being a single parent raising a child on the spectrum
- How lack of support leads to isolation for families raising a child on the spectrum

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

How does having fewer family resources impact an autistic child's future?  
Ideally, how can schools be part of the solution for Jayson and Sheamus?