# THINGS TO KNOW

ABOUT CLEMENTINE AND AUTISM

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disorder
- Autism, Asperger's, and high functioning autism can all be used to describe me
- It only means my brain is wired differently. If most people are like a Windows OS, I'm a Linux distribution
- It's something I'm very open about and love to discuss with colleagues

### WHAT WORKS BEST

- I work better with written instructions rather than verbal
- I can't always "read between the lines", better to tell me what to do instead of what not to do
- Opting out of after work group activities helps me avoid anxiety and overwhelm
- Having examples or giving me the first step can really help when starting something new or learning a new concept



### **GREAT STRENGTHS**

- I say what I mean and I do what I say
- I have the ability to see and hold the big picture view, while at the same time, notice content at a detailed level and pick up inconsistencies and places for improvement
- I am very reliable and trustworthy
- I am highly organized, my brain is always classifying and finding patterns
- <u>Like a sports car</u> in the right circumstances I am very fast and specialized
- I can easily hyper-focus and combined with my pattern-seeking brain, it means I make sense of chaos

### CHARACTERISTICS

- I tend to be a literal thinker, I sometimes have trouble with open-ended or vague questions
- I don't really understand small talk
- My brain likes repetitive things that others may find boring
- I'm very sensitive to artificial light and wear special glasses to help
- I can be sensitive to noise, especially if overwhelmed

# USEFUL RESOURCES

# INSIDE THE AUTISTIC EXPERIENCE

A glimpse in my personal experience <u>https://code.likeagirl.io/inside-the-autistic-</u> <u>experience-8d6eb919770d</u>

## 7 THINGS THE AUTISTIC PERSON IN YOUR WORKPLACE NEEDS FROM YOU

How to support autistic people at work <u>https://medium.com/@AshleaMcKay/7-</u> <u>things-the-autistic-person-in-your-</u> <u>workplace-needs-from-you-d99d351b543f</u>

## 7 STRENGTHS AUTISTIC PEOPLE BRING TO THE WORKPLACE

The less talked about topic of our strengths <u>https://medium.com/artfullyautistic/7-</u> <u>strengths-autistic-people-bring-to-the-</u> <u>workplace-f7af1f84fe3d</u>



Amazing lively 5min video explanation of what autism is and what it means to her <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=ZeQxSdEpi7Y</u>

### AUTISM IS A SPECTRUM DOESN'T MEAN WHAT YOU THINK

Article explaining what the spectrum actually looks like and means <u>https://neuroclastic.com/2019/05/04/its-</u> <u>a-spectrum-doesnt-mean-what-you-think/</u>

# 7 COOL ASPECTS OF AUTISTIC CULTURE

Less known aspects of being autistic <u>https://neuroclastic.com/2019/04/05/7-</u> <u>cool-aspects-of-autistic-culture/</u>

