



# Girls Growing Up Autistically - Keeping Safe , Staying you

CARLY JONES MBE

# Introduction



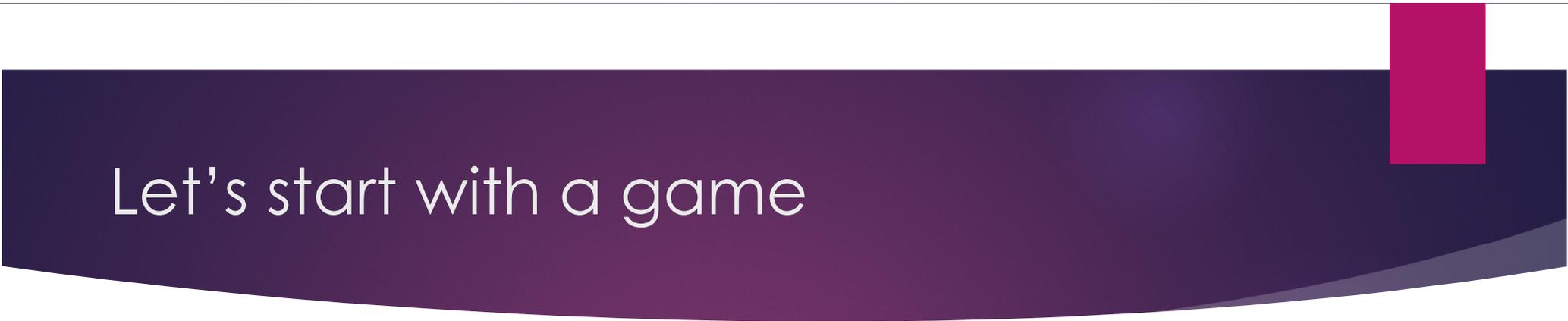
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British Autism Advocate

# Rules of the club

- ▶ Photos and tweets are fine but no videos please
- ▶ Anything shared in room by others or myself stays in the room
- ▶ Anything shared in online or in a professional sense is anonymous
- ▶ E.g.
- ▶ Bad tweet “She told us about a time when she confused the word necklace with knickers “
- ▶ Good tweet “She told us about the challenges of social language and staying safe “
- ▶ Anyone is free to walk in and out as many times as they wish with no judgement if triggered /need a break
- ▶ Using phones is fine I won't think you're rude 😊



# Let's start with a game

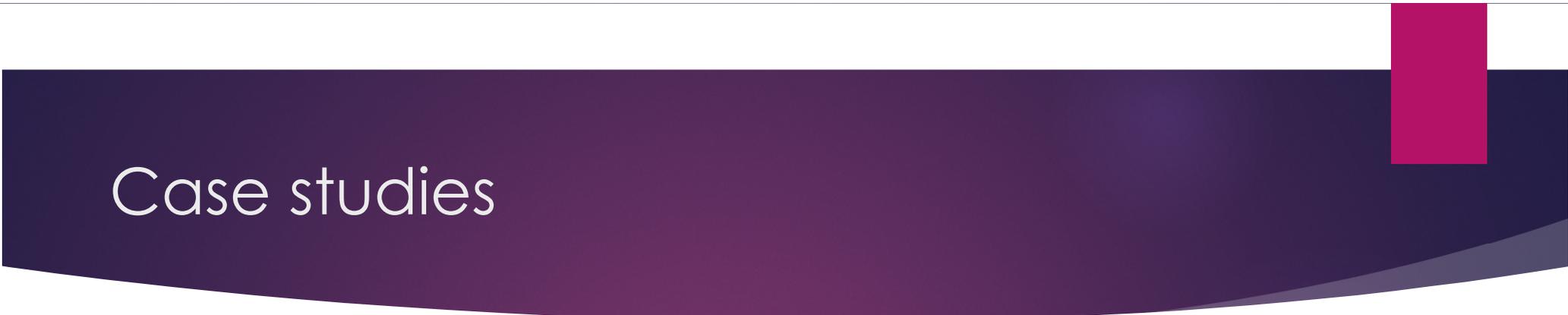
- ▶ Write down your ideal partner
- ▶ What type of job do they have ?
- ▶ What qualifications?
- ▶ What is their house like ?
- ▶ How do they relax ?
- ▶ How is their relationship with their family ?
- ▶ What is their health like ?
- ▶ What are their friends like?

## Why write a online course ?

- ▶ Survey showed 91% of Autistic adults asked had suffered some form of abuse PRIOR to diagnosis and 83 % safer AFTER diagnosis.
- ▶ Help the “gaps “ in current Sex Ed /PHSE curriculum .
- ▶ Those without diagnosis? (BAME /Trans /Non Binary /can't afford private diagnosis)
- ▶ Those in school with no SEN support?
- ▶ Those in Home Education ?

# What makes it hard for Autistic Girls to recognise abuse ?

- ▶ Care Vs Control ?
- ▶ Boundaries different to Non Autistic Girls ?  
Why ?
- ▶ Taught compliance via therapies / fitting it ?
- ▶ Social Imagination and seeing another's agenda, consequences?



# Case studies

- ▶ Girl “I” The Workplace
- ▶ Girl “ T” The School Playground
- ▶ Girls “S” The Bad Boyfriend
- ▶ Girl “M” The Hospital Stay
- ▶ Girl “E” The Birthday

# Why is it hard for Autistic Girls to Report Abuse ?

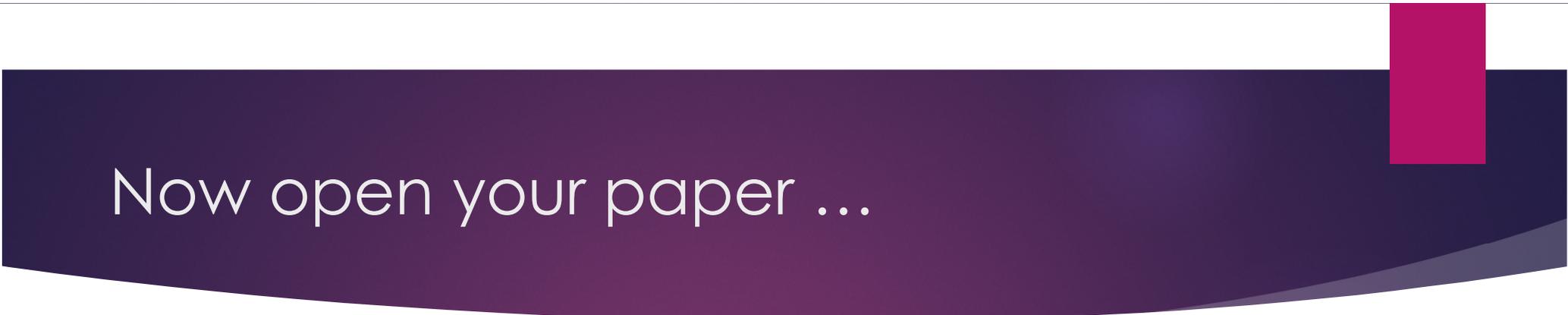
- ▶ Understanding “Help” how does Theory of Mind and Social Imagination prevent this ?
- ▶ How can we teach it ?
- ▶ How can we do small daily checks ?
- ▶ May not recognise it s abuse ,due to the social language issues when events being described by others ,assuming this is “what friends do “

# What is a friend ?

- ▶ Someone you could call at 3am and they'd answer ?
- ▶ Someone who's visited you when you've been unwell or sad ?
- ▶ Someone who does favours and asks for no conditions?
- ▶ A family member you trust ?
- ▶ Online and Offline Friends ?

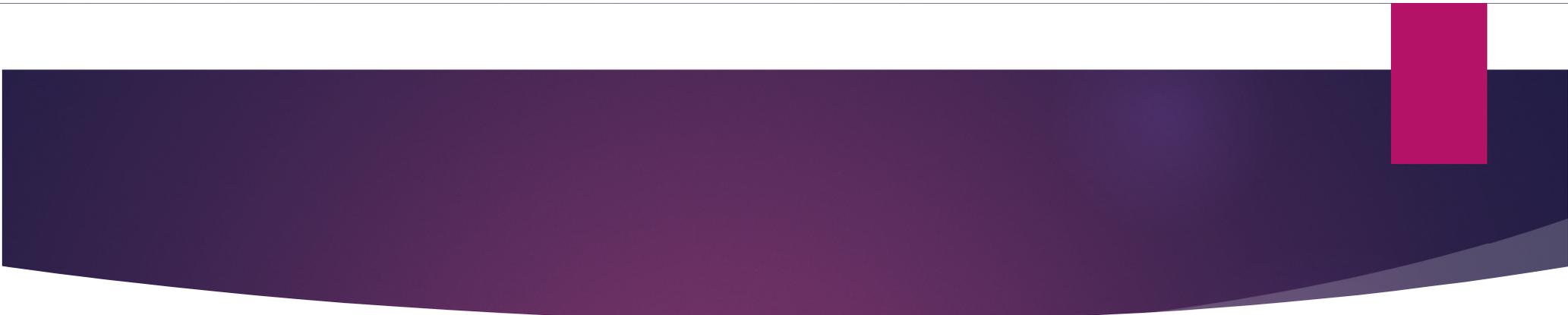
# Importance of diagnosis

- ▶ Friends who understand you
- ▶ Safeguarding
- ▶ Those left behind ? Still struggling ? Who do we need to look out for ?
- ▶ First day of the rest of our lives ?
- ▶ Can we have SELF IDENTITY without it ?
- ▶ How does that change the way we see the world and our place in it ?



Now open your paper ...

- ▶ What we wrote may well be WHO we are ourselves?
- ▶ Who do you want to be ?
- ▶ What parts of YOUR life do you want to work on most ?

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- ▶ Girl “I” The Workplace
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# More work lays ahead



Disabled campaigner tells UN of discrimination faced by autistic females



The Royal Family   
@RoyalFamily

Today (on her birthday!) autism campaigner [@CarlyjonesMBE](#) received an [#MBE](#) for her pioneering work advocating for awareness of diagnosis, education & safeguarding of autistic women, girls and their families.



# Contact

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