



# DESIGNING FOR USERS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM



HI, I'M CARLY HO



Senior Engineer, Clique Studios  
@carlymho

# WHAT IS AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?



# CHALLENGE: SENSORY OVERLOAD



## DESIGNING VS. SENSORY OVERLOAD

- Keep user path obvious
- Try not to autoplay audio, have controls to pause sounds and distracting video or animation
- Break up blocks of text, space + size appropriately to make it easier to focus on your content

# CHALLENGE: CLEAR COMMUNICATION



## DESIGN & CLEAR COMMUNICATION

- Caption emotion conveyed in images and video
- Note in parentheses if you're joking or tongue-in-cheek
- Label your icons
- Provide multiple examples to establish a pattern

# CHALLENGE: GETTING IN TOUCH





## ENGAGING AUTISTIC USERS

- Provide more than one channel
- Keep the number of steps required to initiate contact low
- Allow people to engage at own pace

# FINAL THOUGHTS



Be empathetic  
Design for a broad range of skillsets  
Have autistic folks test your stuff

THANKS!



[twitter.com/carlymho](https://twitter.com/carlymho)