spectrum

noun

Used to classify something, or suggest that it can be classified, in terms of its position on a scale between two extreme or opposite points.

A spectrum is great if you can classify something with a single number

There is value in diagnosis, but...

there is confusion and danger in oversimplification and artificial categories.
How Autistic Are You?

Being on the spectrum reduces a person to a single dimension.

It's like saying, "What's your address on Autistic Street?" or "How Autistic are you?"

It allows classification of Autistic people on a scale from low to high.

But Autistic individuals are not simply on a spectrum: nobody is 95% Autistic, nor 10% Autistic.

There are many dimensions to Autism. It's a complex collection of traits.

Every person has a unique expression of their Autistic nature.
The Autistic Landscape

Autism is not a spectrum. It's a landscape.

There's depth, breadth and height to every Autistic person.

The Autism Spectrum was constructed to simplify diagnosis, but it doesn't reflect reality. There's a better metaphor.

So how can you properly classify somebody who is Autistic?

Not with a number. Not with crude categories such as "High" and "Low."

Instead, take the time to explore the Autistic Landscape.