

Autism Spectrum Disorder

- As many as one in 59 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups
- ASD is the fastest growing developmental disability, with recent prevalence studies indicating a 23% increase
- More people than ever are being diagnosed with ASD

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014



What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. Children and adults with ASD may find it difficult to relate to other people.

ASD represents two primary diagnostic criteria.

1. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction
2. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities.

Live, Learn, Work and Play With Autism

Experts agree that early diagnosis and early intervention are critical for children with autism – because the earlier people with autism get help, the better their outcomes will be in the future.

People with autism—at any age—can live, learn, work and play in their communities through therapy and treatments, growing to lead meaningful, productive lives.

Learn more about your child's development and take the Ages and Stages Questionnaire at MakeTheFirstFiveCount.org.



Did you know?

The annual cost of providing services to children with ASD in the United States is estimated to be 11.5 billion. With early diagnosis and intervention, the overall cost of treatment can be greatly reduced over an individual's lifespan.

Pediatrics, 2014

Screening is for every child

All children should be screened for developmental disabilities, including autism. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that formal screening for autism be conducted at 18 months and 24 months and developmental screening should occur throughout childhood.

Visit Easterseals.com to get more resources and information about Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Social Communication/ Interaction	Restrictive/Repetitive Behavior
Difficulty establishing or maintaining back-and-forth conversations and interactions	Stereotyped or repetitive speech, motor movements or use of objects.
Inability to initiate an interaction	Excessive adherence to routines
Problems with shared attention or sharing of emotions and interests with others.	Ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
Abnormal eye contact, posture, facial expressions, tone of voice and gestures, as well as an inability to understand these.	Excessive resistance to change.
Lack of interest in other people	Highly restricted interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus.
Difficulties in pretend play	Hyper or hypo reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment
Engaging in age-appropriate social activities	
Problems adjusting to different social expectations.	