

WHAT IS AUTISM?

TODAY, 60 FAMILIES IN AMERICA WILL LEARN THEIR CHILD HAS AUTISM.

According to a 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as one out of every 150 children today will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

ASA estimates that 1.5 million Americans and their families are now affected. Autism is costing the U.S. at least \$35 billion annually.

Autism knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries and can affect any family regardless of income, lifestyle, or education. The chances of knowing a person or family affected by autism are increasing every single day.

Although the overall incidence of autism is consistent around the globe, it is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls.

AUTISM IS TREATABLE. HELP ASA IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL AFFECTED BY AUTISM TODAY.



7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 300
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

301.657.0881 or 1.800.3AUTISM
www.autism-society.org
United Way/CFC #11808

AUTISM



*imagine
the possibilities*



imagine... A toddler who can't tell you where it hurts or why he is upset.

...The 8-year-old who is socially awkward and can't relate to her peers.

...The teenager with a developing body, but limited access to programs that help him grow and explore.

...The parents who lose sleep over who will provide care for their adult child with autism after they are gone.



You are not alone. ASA advocates for effective services and supports, offers reliable information, and provides a nationwide network of chapters so that parents, professionals, and those on the autism spectrum can meet, share resources and experiences, attend conferences, and receive the latest information.

imagine

imagine...

...early intervention services that are available to all children who need them.

...a world that celebrates differences and accepts unique learning, and communication styles.

...a teenager who receives transition services that promote self-sufficiency and productivity.

...adults with autism living interdependently in their communities with the supports they need to live with dignity and respect.

...hope that solutions are available throughout the lifespan that lead to effective treatment and the highest quality of life.

the future.



ASA can't do it alone.

We need those on the autism spectrum, their families and the professionals who work with them to join our efforts to increase awareness and change how autism is treated.

Become a member today.

imagine... a lifetime full of services, resources and support.

ABOUT AUTISM

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and falls under the diagnostic category of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder. It is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

Two children, both with the same diagnosis, can act completely different from one another and have varying capabilities. It is important to understand that, whatever the diagnosis, children with autism can learn, improve in functioning, and show improvement with appropriate treatment and education.

Autism can be diagnosed in children as young as one by observation using proper questionnaires and screening tools. A developmental pediatrician, neurologist or psychiatrist familiar with developmental disorders can make a diagnosis.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and early intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes and better levels of functioning for those on the autism spectrum.

SOME EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM INCLUDE:

- Lack of or delay in developing spoken language
- Stereotyped or repetitive use of language
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Repetitive motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, finger-flicking, twirling objects, complex whole body movements)
- Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects
- Inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals

There are many myths and misconceptions about autism. Contrary to popular belief, many children with autism do make eye contact; it just may be less often or in a different way. While sensory stimulation is processed differently in some children, they can, and do, show and give affection; patience and understanding are needed to recognize and appreciate their unique forms of expression. Many children on the autism spectrum can develop good functional language and others can develop some type of communication skills. Children do not "outgrow" autism, but symptoms may lessen as the child receives appropriate treatment. ASA firmly believes that autism is treatable and, through early intervention, those with autism, can live full, productive lives.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AUTISM-SOCIETY.ORG



Founded in 1965, the Autism Society of America is the oldest and largest nationwide grassroots autism organization. ASA's mission areas include:

ADVOCACY

ASA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum. ASA advocates on the local, state and federal levels.

EDUCATION

ASA's *Autism Advocate* magazine reports on legislation, research, and important topics about living with autism. ASA offers a comprehensive website including AutismSource™, a nationwide directory of services and supports. ASA annually hosts the largest national conference on autism spectrum disorders.

SUPPORT

ASA's nationwide network of local chapters provides community support and education to families, people on the spectrum and professionals.

SERVICE

ASA is dedicated to increasing access and availability of appropriate services for those on the autism spectrum across the lifespan.

RESEARCH

ASA is a leader in the support of identifying and fostering treatment-guided research initiatives. ASA is committed foremost to translating research results into applied practices that improve the everyday lives of those on the autism spectrum.



MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Join ASA and add your voice to the growing number of families and professionals helping those with autism. You can help!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

- \$30 ~ Individual \$100 ~ Professional
 \$40 ~ Family \$1,500 ~ Lifetime
 \$50 ~ Outside USA

DONATION LEVELS:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000

Other _____

Total Amount: _____

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

(By providing your e-mail, you will receive *ASA-Net*, our e-newsletter. Your e-mail will be kept confidential.)

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- Check Visa MC AmEx

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD # _____

EXPIRATION _____

SIGNATURE _____

To join, please mail or fax the attached form, or go to our website, www.autism-society.org/join and join online using our secure server. Please mail or fax to: Autism Society of America
P.O. Box 96223
Washington, DC 20090-6223
Fax: 301-657-0869

*Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable under the law. Thank you for your support!