

What is an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disability that typically presents itself during the first 3 years of life. Average age of diagnosis is 4 years old.

ASD is the umbrella term that now includes those previously identified with autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) & Asperger Syndrome.

ASD Statistics: 1 in 68 children, 1 in 43 boys, 1 in 189 girls

Individuals with autism may communicate, interact, behave & learn in ways that are different from most people.

Levels:

Mild(verbal, minimal assistance, social skill deficits, high cognitive skills)

Moderate(language impairments, more assistance, social skill deficits, mild cognitive impairments)

Severe(language impairments, maximum assistance, may demonstrate profound cognitive deficits)

A person with autism may:

- Not respond to their name by 12 months of age.
- Not point to objects to show interest (ie-point at an airplane) or share those interests with others by 14 months.
- Not play "pretend" games (ie-pretend to feed a doll) by 18 months.
- Avoid eye contact and prefer to be alone.
- Demonstrate difficulty understanding other people's feelings or talking about their feelings.
- Demonstrate delayed speech and language skills
- Echolalia: Repeat words or phrases over and over
- Upset with changes in routine
- Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles
- Sensory Processing Disorder: Unusual reactions to sound, smell, taste, look or feel

Treatment: Early intervention is critical.

Prognosis: Individuals with Autism can and do lead independent and productive lives.

Love Serving Autism



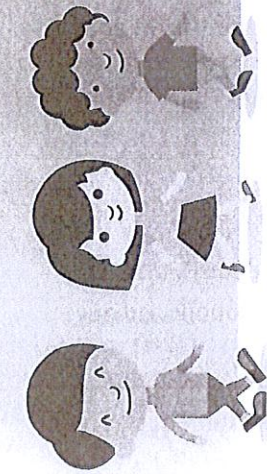
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Love Serving Autism
Serving Autism On and Off the Tennis Court

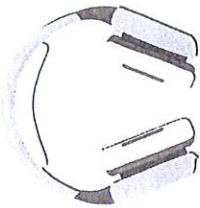
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A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING
CAN GO A LONG WAY.

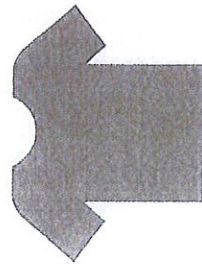
Someone with autism might...



...wear headphones in places like churches, restaurants & classrooms to help with sound sensitivity



...wear sunglasses indoors to help with light sensitivity



...wear clothing with tags removed to help with tactile sensitivity



...use a smart tablet or picture system to communicate

April is
Autism
Awareness
Month!

