



The Groden Network

Your Autism Experts

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Autism Spectrum Disorder Facts

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.
- The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged.
- Almost half (about 44%) of children identified with ASD has average to above average intellectual ability.
- A diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. These conditions are now all called autism spectrum disorder.
- ASD is estimated to occur in 1 out of 68 children.



- ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, but is about 4.5 times more common among boys than among girls.
- There is no medical test, like a blood test, to diagnose ASD. Evaluators look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis.
- ASD can sometimes be detected at 18 months or younger.
- We do not know the exact causes of ASD. There may be many different factors that make a child more likely to have an ASD, including environmental, biologic and genetic factors.
- There is currently no cure for ASD. However, research shows that early intervention treatment services can significantly improve a child's development.
- Early intensive behavioral intervention has been shown to produce marked improvements in skills deficits and problem behavior associated with ASD.
- Children with ASD benefit from a comprehensive therapeutic approach that may include behavior therapy, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and consultation with a physician.