

What Is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that is caused by differences in how the brain functions. People with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in different ways. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and usually last throughout a person's life. Previously, the term "ASD" collectively referred to the following three conditions that were diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger disorder.

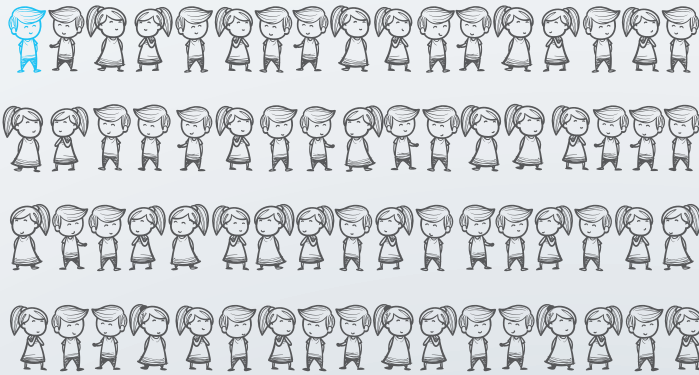
ASD now encompasses a single diagnosis of "autism spectrum disorder". The term "spectrum" in ASD means that each person can be affected in different ways, and symptoms can range from mild to severe. People with ASD share some similar symptoms such as difficulties with social interaction, difficulties with communication, and highly focused interests and/or repetitive activities. How the symptoms affect a person's functioning depends on the severity and combination of those symptoms.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM) 2016

ASD Statistics

Number of children identified with ASD.

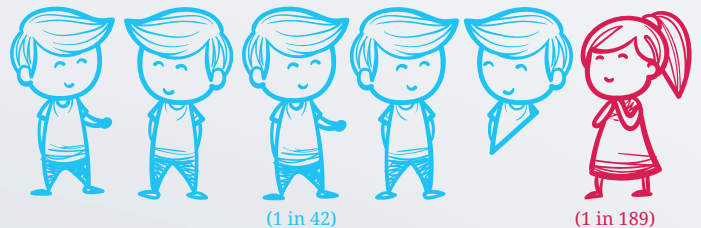
1 IN 68



Source: CDC & ADDM, 2016

Likelihood to be identified with ASD (by gender).

AUTISM 4.5X MORE IN BOYS



Source: National Autism Association, Autism Speaks, & Autism Society, 2016

ASD is the fastest growing developmental disorder.



Source: NAA, Autism Speaks, & Autism Society, 2016

Approximately 4.7 million in the US / 100 million worldwide are living with ASD.

100 MILLION GLOBALLY



Source: CDC, 2016

Percentage of children with ASD that are non-verbal.



Source: NAA, Autism Speaks, & Autism Society, 2016

What is ABA?

Through decades of research, the field of behavior analysis has developed many techniques for increasing useful behaviors and reducing those that may cause harm or interfere with learning. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the use of these techniques and principles to bring about meaningful and positive change in behavior.