

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- Fact Sheet -

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological (brain) disorder that interferes with normal development of communication and social interaction. It typically appears in the first 3 years of life. Autism is often misunderstood.

Characteristics of ASD may include:

- Slow or no language development, or loss of language
- Repetitive speech
- Difficulty socializing
- Preference for being alone
- Odd, repetitive play or repeated body movements (i.e. rocking, hand flapping)
- Difficulty making eye contact
- Difficulty expressing needs
- Difficulty making transitions
- Over-sensitivity or under-sensitivity to stimuli
- Tantrums
- Lack of appropriate fear
- Insistence on sameness
- Sensory differences

Autism Facts

- Autism is a neurological disorder that affects how people think, learn, play and communicate.
- Autism is a “spectrum” disorder - meaning characteristics of autism can be present in a variety of combinations, from mild to severe. Autism Spectrum Disorders include “classic” Autism, Aspergers Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified, and the less common Rhetts Disease and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.
- Autism is more common than childhood cancer, cystic fibrosis and multiple sclerosis combined.
- Autism occurs 4 times more often in boys than in girls.
- An estimated 1 in 110 children born today will be diagnosed with autism, as opposed to 1 in 10,000 in the late 1980s. (The reason behind the increase is unclear, but there are likely many contributing factors. Studies point to both possible genetic links and environmental factors.)
- Each person with autism is different.
- Autism is NOT a mental illness and is NOT caused by bad parenting.
- Children with autism are not unruly kids who choose to misbehave.
- People with autism want to socialize and have friends but need extra help.
- Autism is a lifelong disability but IS treatable.

Autism Society of the Bluegrass...

Is a chapter of the Autism Society of America. Our mission is to provide education, advocacy and support to families, educators and health professionals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Bluegrass area.

Meetings

are *generally* held on the
very last Monday of the month
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

at St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2025 Bellefonte Drive

Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial.

AUTISM IS TREATABLE!

Upcoming Events:
www.asbg.org

For more info, check out our website:

www.asbg.org

or contact:

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