

Autism Awareness Month

APRIL 2021



WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

- ASD refers to an array of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and non-verbal communication
- These conditions range from mild to severe, and can be anywhere in between
- Some people with Autism are also affected by ADHD symptoms, chronic sleep problems, epilepsy, or anxiety disorders



AUTISM PREVALENCE

- Approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder according to 2016 data taken by the CDC.
- Boys are 4 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls
- There is no medical detection for Autism, although Autism can be reliably diagnosed at age 2 using proper testing/evaluation.
- Minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often



FACTS

- Children born to older parents may be at a higher risk for getting Autism
- The past 2 decades, extensive research has been done to determine if there is any link between childhood vaccinations and autism. The results are clear: Vaccines do not cause autism.
- Drowning remains a leading cause of death for children with autism
- Children with autism are nearly eight times more likely to suffer from one or more chronic gastrointestinal disorders than are other children.



INTERVENTION

- A diagnosis is based on the level of support needed. Obtaining an early diagnosis means treatment can begin sooner allowing for improvement in learning, communications and social skills.
- Applied behavioral Analysis (ABA), occupational and speech therapy are the most commonly used interventions for Autism.
- The cost of caring for Americans with autism had reached \$268 billion in 2015 and is expected to rise to \$461 billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective interventions and support across the life span.



RESOURCES

Autism Speaks (link attached) offers information about financial resources, tips for raising children, behavioral interventions and assistance locating support in the local community.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/help-and-information>

<http://www.nysed.gov/content/office-special-education>

<https://nyspta.org/home/parent-resources/special-education/>

