

Autism

Facts About Autism

- An estimated 1/54 boys and 1/252 girls are diagnosed with autism in the U.S.
- 1/88 American children are diagnosed as on the Autism Spectrum
- 65% of parents with children diagnosed as being on the ASD spectrum have reported being victimized by peers
- Wandering has been reported as being the most stressful ASD behavior by 58% of parents.
- 40% of parents suffer sleep disruption due to fear of wandering
- About 40% of those diagnosed have average or above average intellectual abilities
- About 25% of individuals with ASD are non-verbal, but can learn to communicate using other means

Works Cited

www.autismspeaks.org
www.nationalautismassociation.org
www.autismpdc.edu
www.healthcentral.com
www.nhs.uk
www.pbs.org

Misconceptions

Among the U.S. general population, there are many misconceptions about persons diagnosed with ASD. Some of those **misconceptions** include:

- 10% of people thought Autism was not a disability
- People wrongly believe that Autism only affects children
- People don't realize that there is no cure for Autism
- Autism is caused by poor parenting
- Autism is caused by vaccinations
- Autism is caused solely by environmental factors
- Individuals with Autism are violent
- Individuals with Autism are unable or unwilling to form social relationships
- All individuals with Autism have savant abilities
- The appearance of Autism is relatively new

Additional Resources:

Autism Society of Oakland County
<http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/additional-resources>
<http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/news-and-events>
Ten Things Every Child with Autism wishes you knew Ellen Notbohm
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/100-day-kit>
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/wandering-resources>
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/heart-autism>

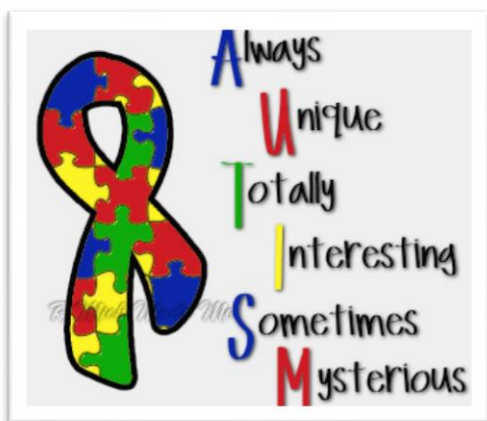
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What Can Teachers Do?

Autism in the Classroom

Autism Awareness and Information



Characteristics

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and repetitive behaviors.

“ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues, such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art”(Autism Speaks).

Autism affects each individual in a unique way. Some individuals are high functioning, where others have significant disabilities and are unable to live independently.

Accommodations

- Ability to choose location in classroom
- Move and sit cushion
- Scheduled day – Visual Schedule



- Weighted vest
- Hideout tent, with blankets and pillows
- Minimize visual clutter in classroom
- Consistent schedules
- Clear and concise directions
- Holding a fidget toy

Autism



the world from a different perspective

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Many people on the spectrum take pride in their above average abilities, and “atypical” ways of viewing the world.

Modifications

- Offering alternate activities when engaging in high-sensory activities
- Modeling all tasks
- Role play situations to increase social skills
- Peer collaboration
- Extra time for projects
- Breaking assignment into parts and creating separate due dates for each portion
- Written and oral instructions

Signs of Autism

- No big smiles or warm expressions by 6 months
- No words by 16 months
- Loss of speech or social skills at any age
- No gesturing by 12 months

Early Signs of Autism

- Lack of eye contact
- Does not respond to his or her name, or sound of familiar voice
- Does not ask for help or make other basic requests
- Does not initiate or respond to cuddling