



Autism Workshop

FDL Co Parish Nurses

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Autism ???



**What comes to
your mind when
you hear the word
“autism”?**

Autism

- Affects approximately 1/150 based on the most recent CDC study
- Occurs 4 times more often in boys than girls
- Affects close to 26,000 individuals in Wisconsin
- Found in all racial, ethnic, and social groups across the world
- Recurs in 5-7% of families unless due to another, known cause. In families with two children with autism, the risk for each successive pregnancy is as high as 50%
- There is a 10-15% likelihood of having a primary relative with a related area of need, i.e., speech and language delays, not necessarily autism

What causes ASD ?

- No known factors in the psychological environment of a child
- Changes in the brain (within cells and neurotransmitters) thought to occur during fetal development
 - These changes cannot be detected by our current medical diagnostic technology
 - likely to be in the future by technological advances in imaging such as PET scans
- Result of a neurological disorder that interferes with the normal development of the brain (in the areas of reasoning, social interaction and communication skills.)
- There is generally nothing that was done or not done during the pregnancy that caused the condition.

What is the “cure” ?

- There is no known “cure” for autism.
- Early identification and intervention can improve the skills and symptoms.
- Medicines may relieve symptoms in some cases.

Autism

- A “*spectrum*” disorder in which children may display a wide variety of characteristics
- Signs may or may not be apparent in infancy, but become more obvious during early development and need to be present by 3
- Early identification and appropriate intervention are key
- Often occurs in combination with other conditions



Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders

- Medical (DSM IV)
- Educational (IDEA, WI PI 11)

What's in a name?

- Technically known as

Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD)

Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders- Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) of the American Psychiatric Association.

- **Pervasive Developmental Disorders**

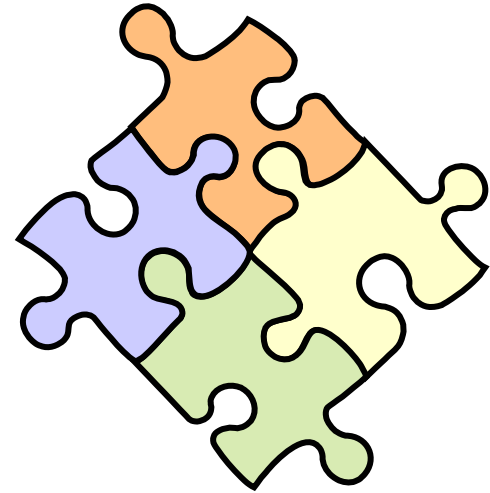
is sometimes referred to as the “umbrella category” that refers to a group of disorders characterized by a significant and widespread (pervasive) effect on the areas of

- social interaction
- communication
- behavior.



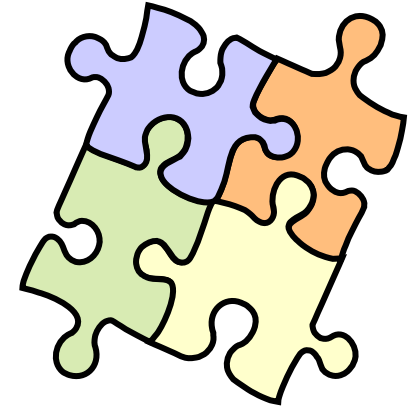
Autism Spectrum Disorder "ASD"

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger Disorder
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
- Rett Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders
Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)



Four Hallmarks of Autism

(Diagnostic Features -- DSM-IV)



- Impaired social development
- Impaired language and communication skills
- Resistance to change or insistence on sameness
- An onset in the first years of life before age three years

Autism Spectrum Disorders can be characterized as a

“Hidden Disability”

Each person with ASD is a Unique individual.



Autism



*How well can you
recognize the
characteristics
common to
Autism?*

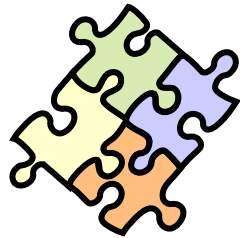


Characteristics of Typical Development

- Social Development
- Joint Attention
- Language and Communication
- Behavior and Interests

Typical Characteristics of ASD

Think about a child you
know



What characteristics
might link them to
the autism puzzle?



Social Development

- Key characteristics of interpersonal interactions
 - Reciprocity
 - Does the child respond to social initiatives by others?
 - Initiation
 - Does the child attempt to engage others?
 - Use of nonverbal behaviors
 - Does the child utilize nonverbal behaviors/gestures (e.g., eye contact, smiling, responsiveness to name, etc)?
 - Interactions
 - Is there social interaction with family members?
 - Does the child attempt to engage or show interest in peers?

Joint Attention

- Sharing one's experience of object/event in some manner
- Ability to initiate/engage
- Gestures/actions
 - Pointing
 - To ask for something
 - Pointing to indicate interest
 - Following pointing – looks where other points
 - Following gaze – looks where other looks
 - Showing – holds toys out toward other

Characteristics of Language/Communication

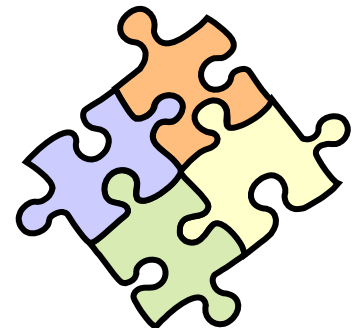
- Use of words by expected ages
- Likely unaware of meaning of their first words, but soon learn the power of those words as others respond to them.
- Child has *communicative intent*
- By six months of age, most children recognize the basic sounds of their native language.
- By age 3 – 5 begins to master the rules of language.

Characteristics of Behaviors / Interests

- Interest in many objects and activities Intense preoccupation with certain object / parts of objects
- Enjoys social play such as peek-a-boo and imitates others
- Is interested in other children and adults
- Limited stereotyped and repetitive mannerisms
 - Some engagement in repetitive behaviors is typical for preschool age children

Other features of ASD

- Characterized by a spectrum of abilities and challenges, ranging from mild to severe.
- Abilities and evidence of learning may fluctuate day to day due to many influences
- May show affection, smile, laugh and a variety of emotions





Individuals/children with ASD find it more difficult to:

- Engage in typical forms of play
- Comprehend spoken and written language as well as “social” language
- Learn skills for self-care and everyday living (eating, toilet training)
- Socially interact and make friends
- Learn in school without individualized support
- Be successful in new environments or when routines change

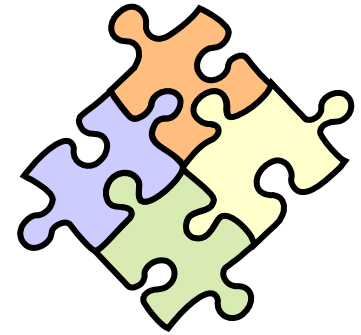
Children with ASD
are *children first*
each with a unique personality,
and with feelings, fears, and dreams



And their families are more like other families than different.

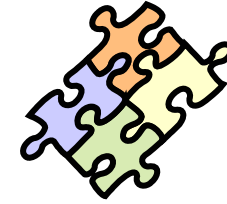


In practical terms what does this mean?



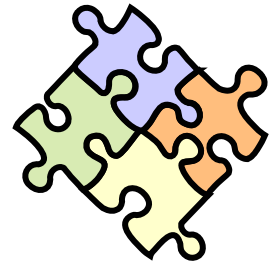
- Human beings are social by nature
- Children with ASD are too
- But the features of ASD make it harder for them to understand the social world, to tolerate stimulation and to socially interact and communicate with others

Local Resources



- ADRC - Aging and Disability Resource Center at (920) 929-3466 or toll free at (888) 435-7335.
- Children's Long Term Support Program, Family Support and the Community Options Program
Geri Rettler, Geri.Rettler@fdlco.wi.gov
- Birth – Three, Diane Fett, 920-929-689, Diane.Fett@fdlco.wi.gov
- FDL County & Beyond - Autism Support Group - contacts are Contacts: Sherry Behnke - (h) 923-5396; (w) 920-721-4311, Julia Cartwright (h) 923-3480, and/or Jan Rupe, NFDL School Psychologist (w) 929-3757;
- Spillman Library (North Fond du Lac) - <http://www.northfonddulaclibrary.org/>
and page to the printable list <http://www.northfonddulaclibrary.org/AutismBooks.pdf>

Wisconsin Resources



- Regional Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Centers
NE Regional CYSHCN
Children's Hospital of WI-Fox Valley
Neenah, WI 54956
920-969-5325
www.northeastregionalcenter.org
- Autism Society of Wisconsin
Two Rivers, WI 54241
920-553-0278
888-4-AUTISM (1-888-428-8476)
www.asw4autism.org
- Waisman Resource Center
Kristin Gowan, Information and Referral Specialist
Madison, WI 53705
800-532-3321
gowan@waisman.wisc.edu
- Wisconsin FACETS
Kara Van Vooren, Fox Valley Center Coordinator
920-419-1236
(877) 374-4677 ext. 126
tnkvanvooren@prodigy.net
- Wisconsin First Step
Help Book 2007: A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs
Maternal and Child Health Hotline - 1-800-722-2295
Wisconsin First Step - 1-800-642-7837
<http://www.mch-hotlines.org>

National Resources

- Maternal Child Health Bureau – HRSA www.mchb.hrsa.gov
- Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities www.nichcy.org

- American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org
- American Academy of Family Physicians <http://www.aafp.org/>

- National Center of Medical Home Initiatives (AAP) www.medicalhomeinfo.org
- National Medical Home Autism Initiative www.waisman.wisc.edu/nmhai/

- First Signs www.firstsigns.org
- Autism Society of America <http://www.autism-society.org>