

What is Autism?

The Connection Is You™

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's **social skills**, **communication**, **relationships**, and **self-regulation**. The Autism experience is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of Autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive resources that can support the choices and opportunities needed to live fully.



Relationships



Communication



Self-Regulation



Social Skills

Autism Signs & Characteristics

- Repetitive behaviors, movements, or phrases
- Lack of response to normal stimuli (i.e. his/her name, visual cues)
- Atypical verbal communication or non speaking
- Difficulty understanding or expressing feelings
- Avoiding eye contact



Facts & Statistics

Over 7 million individuals in the United States are on the Autism spectrum; Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the U.S.

1 in 31 children are diagnosed with Autism. Since 2000, the Autism prevalence rate has been consistently increasing from one in 150 to now one in 31.



38% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability, 24% are in the borderline range, and 39% have average to above-average IQ scores.

Over the next decade, an estimated **700k to 1.1 million+ Autistic teens** will enter adulthood and age out of school-based services.



Vaccines do not cause Autism.

Boys are 3.4 x more likely than girls to be diagnosed with Autism.

The cost of caring for Autistic Americans is estimated to rise to \$460+ billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective interventions and supports. An estimated \$175 to \$196 billion of these costs are for adult services.