

# 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 36 children are diagnosed with Autism.** Since 2000, the Autism prevalence rate has been consistently increasing from one in 150 to now one in 36.



**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 4x 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.