



FAQ's

Question: What causes Autism?

Answer: There is no one cause of autism, just like there is not a single "type" of autism. Research and scientists identify many rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. There may also be some environmental factors like advanced parental age at conception, maternal illness during pregnancy and extreme prematurity.

Question: What are the symptoms of ASD?

Answer: The symptoms and behaviors of ASD can range anywhere from mild to severe, and can appear gradually or suddenly. Some symptoms may include repetitive behaviors, communication difficulties, and delays in understanding social relationships.

Question: Can people with ASD be helped?

Answer: Although there is no definite cure to ASD, there are many treatments and medications that can help treat the symptoms of autism. Studies show that with proper instruction, individuals with autism can become more responsive to others as they learn and better understand the world around them.

Resources

Autism Society of the Inland Empire

- Support, Training, Groups and Special Events
- Phone: 951-220-6922
- Email: info@ieautism.org
- <http://www.ieautism.org>

Autism Speaks

- Advocacy, Research, and Apps
- Phone: 888-288-4762
- Email: familyservices@autismspeaks.org
- <http://www.autismspeaks.org>

The Arc

- Residential and Family Support, Employment, and Recreation
- Phone: 800-433-5255
- <http://www.thearc.org/what-we-do>

Talk About Curing Autism

- Support, Mentors and Scholarships
- Phone: 855-726-7810
- <http://www.tacanow.org/about-taca/>



**AUTISM
SPECTRUM
DISORDER
(ASD)**





What is Autism?

- ASD is a developmental disability that causes social, communicational and behavioral challenges.
- Autism can sometimes make it hard for children to make friends, speak and deal with changes in their lives
- People with autism struggle to recognize and understand things like facial expressions, sarcasm and emotions. This may make it hard for them to make friends and interact in social situations
- Although many were institutionalized just decades ago, today, there are various services, support groups, and training facilities that allow children with ASD to grow, learn and flourish.

Statistics

- Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.
- About 1 of 68 children are diagnosed with autism in the U.S.
- In the Inland Empire alone, there are over 10,000 reported cases of autism, which is more than the number of cases found in almost half the states in the U.S.

*“There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child **can do** instead of what he **cannot do.**”*

-Dr. Temple Grandin

Is there a Cure?

Sadly, there is no definite cure to autism. However, there are many treatments that can help children and adults that struggle with autism. For example, therapy can help children to learn how to talk and interact with others. Also, there are medications that can help treat some of the symptoms that may occur when suffering with ASD, for example, emotional distress, aggression, or hyperactivity. For all treatment plans, please consult your health care provider and refer to our list of trusted resources listed at the back of this pamphlet.



Myths About ASD

Myth: Vaccines cause Autism.

Truth: This claim started when a British surgeon, who has now been discredited, stated that vaccines were causing an increase in autism. Vaccines, however, do not actually cause autism and autism is, in fact, an outcome of genetic factors.

Myth: Everyone with autism acts in the same manner.

Truth: Individuals who suffer from autism may experience mild, moderate or severe conditions. Because of this, it is not true that everyone who is diagnosed with autism will act in the same way. Autistic individuals are actually unique and have different strengths and needs, making autism a spectrum disorder.

Myth: People with autism don't want to make friends.

Truth: Children and adults who have autism do struggle with social interactions which makes it difficult for them to connect with one another. In reality, autistic people love to experience friendships like everyone else.