

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Facts



- ASD is the fastest growing disability
- 1 child in 110 has ASD
- 4 out of 5 people diagnosed with ASD are boys
- There are no racial, ethnic or social boundaries
- Symptoms of ASD are treatable
- ASD affects the way in which people understand and react to the world around them
- ASD can be diagnosed before the age of three
- ASD is not always associated with lower IQ
- It is not your fault and you are not alone

Early Intervention Helps

There are no cures today for Autism Spectrum Disorders, but early diagnosis and interventions are a child's best hope for reaching his or her full potential.

Electronic Access to Autism Brochures:

www.dmh.mo.gov/developmentaldisabilities/officeofautismservices.aspx

Division of Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices

Albany Regional Office
660-726-5246; 800-560-8774 (toll-free)

Central Missouri Regional Office
573-882-9835; 888-671-1041 (toll-free)

Hannibal Regional Office
573-248-2400; 800-811-1128 (toll-free)

Joplin Regional Office
417-629-3020; 888-549-6634 (toll-free)

Kansas City Regional Office
816-889-3400; 800-454-2331 (toll-free)

Kirksville Regional Office
660-785-2500; 800-621-6082 (toll-free)

Poplar Bluff Regional Office
573-840-9300; 800-497-4214 (toll-free)

Rolla Regional Office
573-368-2200; 800-828-7604 (toll-free)

Sikeston Regional Office
573-472-5300; 800-497-4647 (toll-free)

Springfield Regional Office
417-895-7400; 888-549-6635 (toll-free)

St. Louis County Regional Office
314-877-2711; 800-374-6458 (toll-free)

St. Louis Regional Tri-County Office
314-244-8800; 800-358-7665 (toll-free)

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Disabilities



Could My Child Have Autism?



Developed by the Central Missouri Rapid Response Initiative

Rapid Response is a cooperative effort among state and local agencies with a goal of screening children for Autism Spectrum Disorders and providing early interventions.

Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism has a wide range of symptoms, but typically includes difficulties with:

Communication

Poor or unusual eye contact

Little to no babbling, pointing, gesturing or words to communicate

Inconsistent response to name or to people talking

Repetition of or echoing words or phrases in place of normal language

Loss of skills they once possessed (e.g. no longer saying words once used)

Social Skills

Not knowing how to play with or not showing an interest in other children

Lack of shared attention, sharing toys or taking turns

Behavior

Unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound

Little or no fear of common dangers

Unusual or unrealistic fears

Craving physical contact or avoiding being touched

Restricted or limited interests; preferring same toys, clothing or activity

Unusual object use; limited pretend or imaginative play

Repeating action over and over again (e.g. hand flapping, rocking, spinning objects, etc.)

Difficulty changing routine

Where to Get Help

If you notice several of these signs on a consistent basis over time, please contact:

For Screening

- Pediatrician
- Primary care doctor
- Parents as Teachers (Birth-5 years)
1-866-728-4968 (toll-free)
or call your local school district
www.parentsasteachers.org

For Diagnosis

- Developmental pediatrician
- Clinical child psychologist
- Child neurologist



Questions You May Have

- How do I get my child evaluated?
- What treatments are available?
- What specialist should I see for additional supports?
- What do these services cost?
- What will my school district do to help?

Missouri Resources

The agencies below can help you find services in your area.

First Steps (Birth - 3 years)

- 1-866-583-2392 (toll-free)
- www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/
- First Steps Early Intervention Program helps families of children with a developmental delay to coordinate their child's care and find services. It is offered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

School Districts (3 years and older)

- (573) 751-4212 (DESE main office)
- www.dese.mo.gov/directory
- If your child is 3 years or older you should call your local school district for help

Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities (All ages)

- 1-800-207-9329 (toll-free) or www.dmh.mo.gov
- Division of Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices are the "point of entry" into the state system for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Regional Offices provide assessment and case management services. They also provide funding for direct services based on need and available resources.

Please see back panel for local numbers.

Additional Resources

For more information about child development and autism visit:

- First Signs
www.firstsigns.org
- Learn the Signs. Act Early.
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly

(Offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)