

Autism Spectrum Disorder Facts

- ASD is the fastest growing disability
- 1 child in 68 has ASD
- 4 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 age 3
- ASD is not always associated with a lower IQ
- It is not your fault and you are not alone



Early Intervention Helps

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

For additional autism resources visit:
<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/manuals/index.htm>

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Could My Child Have Autism?



Developed by the Central Missouri
Rapid Response Collaborative

The Rapid Response Collaborative is a cooperative effort among state and local agencies to improve care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

Signs

of Autism Spectrum Disorder

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 own name or to people talking
- Repetition of or echoing words or phrases in place of normal language
- Loss of skills 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 the 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)
- Difficulty changing routine

Help

Where to reach out

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
www.parentsasteachers.org

or call your local school district

For Diagnosis

- Developmental pediatrician
- Clinical child psychologist
- Child neurologist

Missouri Autism Centers

Washington University School of Medicine
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Center
St. Louis, MO | 314.286.1700 (Scheduling)
wuchild.wustl.edu

MU Thompson Center
for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Columbia, MO | 888.720.0015 or 573.884.6052
thompsoncenter.missouri.edu

Knights of Columbus Developmental Center
at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center
St. Louis, MO | 314.577.5609
cardinalglennon.org (search developmental center)

Resources

of Missouri

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

First Steps (Birth - 3 years)

- 1.866.583.2392
- www.dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps
- First Steps Early Intervention Program assists families of children with a developmental delay or disability by providing coordinated supports, resources, and early intervention services.

School Districts (3 years +)

- 573.751.4212 (DESE main office)
- www.dese.mo.gov/school-directory
- Call your local school district for help

Division of Developmental Disabilities (All ages)

- 1.800.207.9329 (toll-free)
- www.dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities
- The place to start for services offered by the state for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Regional Offices determine eligibility for Division services.

Additional Resources

- First Signs - www.firstsigns.org
- Learn the Signs. Act Early. www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly
(Offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics
Developmental & Behavioral Sciences
Kansas City, MO | 816.234.3674
childrens-mercy.org (search developmental sciences)

Southeast Missouri State University
Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment
Cape Girardeau, MO | 573.986.4985
semo.edu/autismcenter