

## Autism Resource Center

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## Autism

### about

Autism is a condition which is usually diagnosed before a child is three. Autistic children have delayed speech or no speech at all, problems interacting socially, limited interests and odd or repetitive behaviors. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by abnormal brain development and functioning. Many children with autism also have an intellectual disability.



Finding the right treatment plan can be challenging because every child is unique and has different strengths and weaknesses. Often parents have their child tested for hearing problems because their child does not respond to conversation or commands. They may also show strange or difficult to manage behaviors. Early detection and getting the right educational, medical, behavioral, and supportive services can improve the functioning and long-term outlook of children with autism.

### frequently asked questions

1. [What is autism?](#)
2. [What are early signs of autism?](#)
3. [What are some symptoms of autism that parents and caregivers can look for?](#)
4. [What is the difference between autism and Asperger's disorder?](#)
5. [Are there treatments available for autism?](#)
6. [Are there medication treatments for autism?](#)
7. [Why do children with autism have difficulty learning in a regular classroom setting?](#)
8. [What is the difference between autism and pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified \(PDD, NOS\)?](#)

#### Featured Expert Response to Frequently Asked Questions

[When Should a Parent Consider Medication for their Child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?](#)

### facts for families

AACAP's *Facts for Families* were developed to provide concise and up-to-date information on issues that affect children, teenagers, and their families.

[The Child with Autism](#)

[Asperger's Disorder](#)

[Self Injury in Adolescents](#)

[Children Who are Mentally Retarded](#)

[Services in School for Children with Special Needs: What Parents Need to Know](#)

[Psychiatric Medication for Children and Adolescents Part I - How Medications are Used](#)

[Where to Find Help for Your Child](#)

### video clips

#### Autism

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(May 2008)

[Disclosures](#)

duration: 00:58

### clinical resources

#### Practice Parameters

Considered resources for experts, mental health professional and physicians, AACAP's practice parameters were developed to guide clinical decision making. They show the best treatments and the range of treatment options available to families living with childhood and adolescent mental illness.

[Practice Parameters For The Assessment And Treatment Of Children, Adolescents, And Adults With Autism And Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders](#)

[Practice parameters for the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents, and adults with mental retardation and comorbid mental disorders.](#)

[Structure of the autism symptom phenotype: A proposed multidimensional model.](#)

Georgiades S, Szatmari P, Zwaigenbaum L, Duku E, Bryson S, Roberts W, Goldberg J, Mahoney W.

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2007 Feb;46(2):188-96.

#### Useful Peer Reviewed Articles

[Managing Children with Autism \(Brams J. February .2007\) Psychiatric Times](#)

### research and training

#### 2008 Annual Meeting Sessions

Symposium 40 Chair: Bryan King Co-Chair Eric Hollander

[Treatment of Repetitive Behavior in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Results of the NIH STAART Psychopharmacology Network Trial](#)

Symposium 24 Chair – Christopher McDougal

[RUPP-PI Autism Network: Risperidone with or without Parent Management Training in Children and Adolescents with Pervasive Developmental Disorders](#)

Workshop – Chair -Martin J. Lubetsky, M.D.

[Asperger's Disorder: Diagnosis, Behavioral Interventions, and Social Competence Training](#)

New Research Poster Presentation 3.52

[Relationship Between Global and Component Aspects of ADHD and Autism](#)

\*[Click here to purchase Institute and Workshop Notebooks from the 2008 Annual Meeting.](#)

\*[Click here to order audio cds from the 2008 Annual Meeting.](#)

Pharmacological treatment options for autism spectrum disorders in children and adolescents. Leskovec TJ, Rowles BM, Findling RL. Harv Rev Psychiatry. 2008;16(2):97-112. Review.

Educational placements and service use patterns of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

White SW, Scahill L, Klin A, Koenig K, Volkmar FR.

J Autism Dev Disord. 2007 Sep;37(8):1403-12. Epub 2006 Nov 3.

Comprehensive synthesis of early intensive behavioral interventions for young children with autism based on the UCLA young autism project model.

Reichow B, Wolery M.

J Autism Dev Disord. 2009 Jan;39(1):23-41. Epub 2008 Jun 6.

Social skills development in children with autism spectrum disorders: a review of the intervention research.

Williams White S, Keonig K, Scahill L.

J Autism Dev Disord. 2007 Nov;37(10):1858-68. Epub 2006 Dec 29. Review.

### books

Written by members of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), the leading professional association in its field, *Your Child* is the most comprehensive, authoritative, and parent-friendly guide to a child's development.

[Your Child - Autism](#)

### getting help

#### Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Finder

Getting help is the most important thing that parents can do for children and adolescents with autism. Parents should try to find a mental health professional who has advanced training and experience with evaluating and treating children, adolescents, and families. It is important to find a comfortable match between your child, your family, and the mental health professional.

A child and adolescent psychiatrist is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of thinking, feeling and behavior that affect children, adolescents, and their families. Child and adolescent psychiatrists have completed four years of medical school, at least three years of residency training in medicine, neurology, or general psychiatry with adults, and two years of additional training in psychiatric work with children, adolescents, and their families.

[Click here to find a child and adolescent psychiatrist in your area.](#)

Bear in mind that because of the extensive training required, there is a nationwide shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists. To learn more about other mental health professionals and places where families can find help, read [Where to Find Help For Your Child](#).

#### Autism Society of America's Source Directory

Find local providers and services for families living with autism through the [Autism Society of America's \(ASA\) source directory](#).

The ASA is the nation's leading grassroots autism organization and exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism.



### other links

- [www.feat.org](http://www.feat.org)
- [autism.asu.edu](http://autism.asu.edu)
- [www.autismsource.org](http://www.autismsource.org)
- [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)
- [www.autism-resources.com](http://www.autism-resources.com)
- [www.aspergersyndrome.org](http://www.aspergersyndrome.org)