

Autism Spectrum Disorder



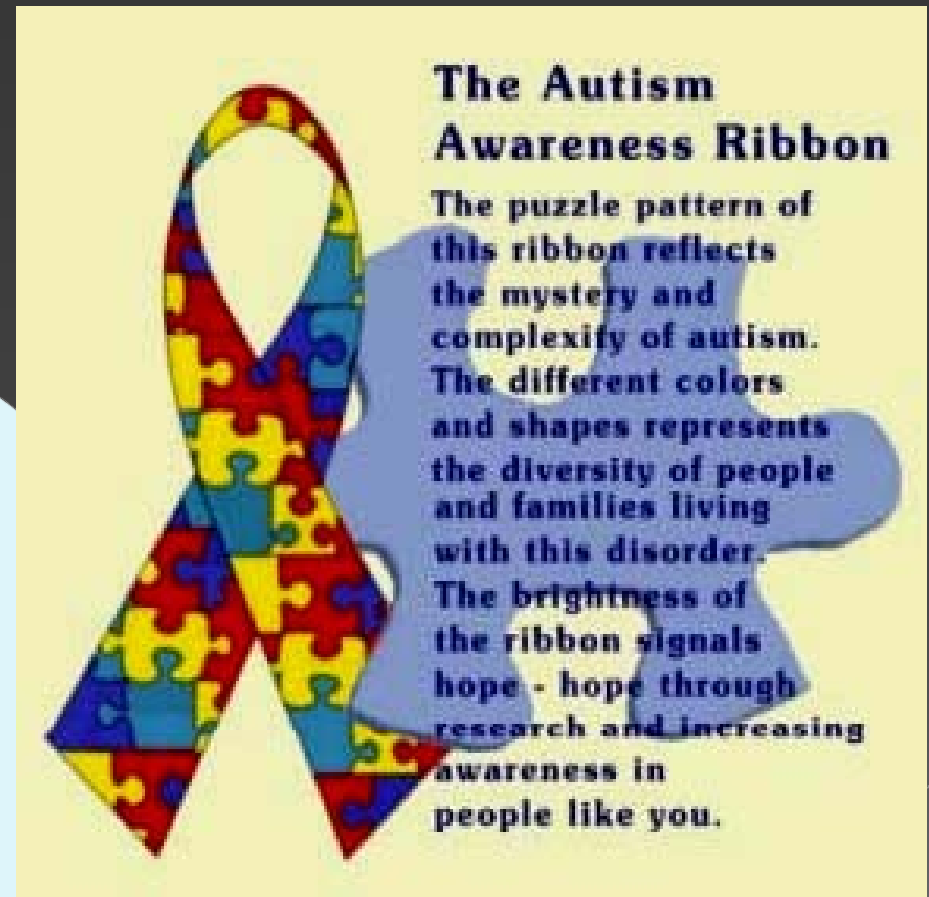
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Myth Busters

- ✓ There is an autism epidemic.
- ✓ Autism can be cured
- ✓ Autism is the result of cold and unemotional parents.
- ✓ Individuals with autism always have hidden or exceptional talents.
- ✓ Repetitive or ritualistic behaviors should be stopped.
- ✓ Individuals with autism are unable to build social relationships.
- ✓ Autistic individuals are a danger to society.

What is Autism?

- ◎ Textbook Definition
 - › A developmental disability affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that affects a child's performance.
- ◎ Off the Street Definition
 - › A social disability involving communication within the child's everyday life.



Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism: extreme social withdrawal and impairment in communication; often includes stereotyped movements, resistance to change, and unusual responses to sensory experiences; usually manifests before **three years of age**.

Asperger Syndrome (AS): much like mild autism, but without significant impairments in cognition and language

Rett Syndrome: normal development for five months to four years, followed by regression and mental retardation; much more prevalent in females

Autism Spectrum Disorders cont...

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder: normal development for at least two and up to 10 years, followed by significant loss of skills, much more prevalent in males

Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS): persons who display behaviors typical of autism but to a lesser degree and/or with an onset later than three years of age

Asperger Syndrome?

- ◉ With this syndrome, people are likely to display impairment or abnormalities in the same areas as autism but to a milder degree.
- ◉ People have difficulty in social interactions because they are not adept at reading social cues.
- ◉ **Why they don't have friends**

[Asperger Syndrome Video](#)

“SAVANT”

- ◎ Savant Doctor

Prevalence

- Male to Female Ratio
> 4:1
- 1 out of 150 are born with Autism
- [Autism Video](#)

Causes of Autism

◎ Early Theories

- › Leo Kanner's paper
- › Hans Asperger's paper

◎ Today's Theories

- › Neurological Basis of Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - People with autism have a high incidence of brain seizures and cognitive deficits
- › Heredity Basis of Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Studies have shown when one family member is diagnosed with autism, the chances are 50 to 200 times higher that another family also has autism .

Assessment for Autism

- The diagnosis of autism is often by a psychiatrist using criteria established by the American Psychiatric Association that focus on communication skills, social interactions, and repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior.
- Clinicians can use behavioral observations instruments and ask parents and/or teachers to fill out behavior checklists.

Assessment for Asperger Syndrome

- With Asperger syndrome, the clinician is looking for normal or close to normal communication abilities but problems in social interactions and repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, but to a lesser extent than is seen in classic autism

Educational Considerations for Autism

- ◉ Most educators believe that educational programming for students with autism spectrum disorders should include:
 - › Direct instruction of skills
 - › Behavior management using functional behavioral assessment and positive behavioral support
 - › Instruction in natural settings

Educational Considerations for Asperger Syndrome

- Some authorities recommend the use of social interpreters since these students have difficulty in reading social cues.
- Coaching involves helping persons with Asperger Syndrome to prepare ahead of or during a social interaction.

Classroom Strategies for Children with Autism

- Provide a warning when daily routines will change
- Use clear and unambiguous language
- Repeat instructions
- Check for understanding
- Teach social skills, such as turn taking

Early Intervention

- May produce remarkable gains in many young children with autism spectrum disorders
- Education increasingly focuses on using natural interactions to teach students in natural environments, including regular classrooms
- FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IS KEY!

Treatments for Autism

- Educational/ Behavioral Interventions
- Medications
- Other Therapies

6 Things Autism is NOT...

- ⦿ Autism is not mental retardation
- ⦿ Autism is not "savant" syndrome. Some autistic people are "savant," (e.g., instant calculator, etc.)
- ⦿ Autism is not an emotional problem
- ⦿ Autism is not a psychosis or lack of reality contact.
- ⦿ People do not choose to be autistic
- ⦿ Autism is not "a fate worse than death."
Autistic people have some disadvantages, but some live very happy and rewarding lives.

Activity

- Number off in groups of three
- Role
 - > Teacher
 - > Autistic Student
 - > Non-Autistic Student
- Listen for instructions
- Come back together for class discussion

Works Cited

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Any
Questions?