

Autism Spectrum Disorder

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a range of neurodevelopmental disorders that is characterized by: Communication Difficulties (verbal and nonverbal), Repetitive, Stereotypic, and restricted areas of interests and activities, and Social Interaction Difficulties
- A spectrum disorder means:
 - Within ASD there are a range of abilities and challenges across domains and individuals
 - There is a family of related disorders
 - There is a variety in the severity of symptoms
 - The characteristics are different from child to child and within an individual over time
 - No single behavior is always typical or present in every individual
- ASD is found throughout the world in families of all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds

Prevalence

- The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that 1 in 68 persons have and autism spectrum disorder.

Diagnosis

- Present before age 3
- Diagnostic information from the DSM V
 - Social Skills
 - Impaired social-emotional reciprocity
 - Impaired nonverbal communication
 - Difficulty with developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships
 - Restricted interests/ Repetitive behaviors
 - Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects or speech
 - Preoccupation with sameness
 - Need for non-functional routines or rituals
 - Fixation of certain interest(s)
 - Hyper or hyperactivity to sensory input
 - Symptoms must present early in the developmental period
 - Symptoms cause significant impairment across important areas life (e.g., social, occupational, etc.)
 - The impairments are not better associated with a different disorder or delay