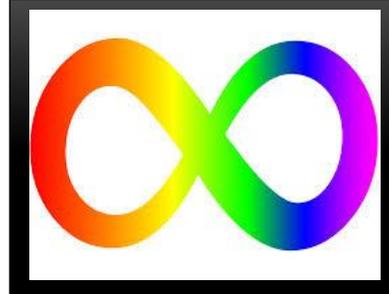


AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (Autism) FACT SHEET

Special Needs Resource and Training Blog

November 2019

Fact Sheet #1



Prevalence

Children and adults with Autism have significant problems in socializing with others, emotions, intense preoccupation with one or two topics, repetitive routines and motor skills.

Tend to be sensitive to sensations of sound, light or touch.

It is a common myth that autistic children can perform amazing skills such as memorizing birthdays and telephone numbers.

30% of autistic children have a seizure disorder

40% of children with autism do not speak

25-30% of children with autism have some words at 12 to 18 months, and then lose them.

Between 60% and 80% of children with ASD have a sleep-related disorder

Females tend to be more likely to show accompany intellectual disabilities.

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that impacts social, speech, behavioral and motor skills. It is a spectrum disorder meaning it varies from person to person. No two people have the same symptoms. It is estimated that 1% of the population is diagnosed with autism.

DSM-5 Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder

- A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts as manifested by the following:
1. Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity e.g. from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back and forth conversation to reduced sharing of interests, emotions to failure to initiate conversation.
 2. Deficits in nonverbal communication behaviors used for social interaction, ranging from poorly integrated verbal and non-verbal communication to abnormal eye contact and body language or deficits in understanding and use of gestures, to lack of facial expressions and nonverbal communication.
 3. Deficits in developing, maintaining and understanding relationships, ranging, for examples from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends.

Severity is based on social communication impairments and restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior.

- B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities as manifested by at least 2 of the following:
1. Stereotype or repetitive motor movement, use of objects, or speech, lining up toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases.
 2. Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines or ritualized patterns of verbal or non-verbal behavior (e.g. extreme distress at small changes, difficulties with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, need to take the same route or eat the same food every day).
 3. Highly restricted, fixed interest that are abnormal in intensity or focus (e.g. strong attachment to preoccupation with unusual objects, excessively circumscribed or preservative interest).
 4. Hyper or hypoactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g. apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse responses to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects).

Timeline

1908- Swiss psychiatrist, Eugene Bleuler is the first to use the term autism to describe individuals with schizophrenia who lost contact with reality.

1912- Dr. Bleuler publishes "Das Autistische Denken" in a journal of psychiatry and presents his thoughts on how a person with autism experiences the world.

1938- Dr. Hans Asperger presents a lecturer on child psychology. He adapts Bleuler's term "autism" and uses the term "autistic psychopathy" to describe children showing social withdrawal and overly intense preoccupations.

1938- Beamon Triplett writes a thirty-three page account of his 4 year- old Donald's unusual behavior and sends it to Leo Kanner.

1943- Dr. Leo Kanner describes a childhood disorder involving social and language impairments and the presence of restricted or repetitive behaviors. The account of 11 children leading to a distinct syndrome.

1944- Dr. Hans Asperger reports on 4 children with a pattern of behavior he terms autistic psychopathy- behaviors include reduce empathy, difficulties with forming friendships, impairments in the ability to maintain reciprocal conversations.

1952- The first edition of DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) is published.

1959- LSD is used as treatment for autistic schizophrenic children.

1962- The National Autistic Society was created- The first autism organization.

1965- National Society for Autistic Children was founded.

1966- South African psychologist, Victor Lotter publishes the first prevalence study on autism in England.

1966- 4.5 in 10,000 are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

1966- Childhood autism rating scale introduced.

1967- Bruno Bettlheim publishes infantile autism and the *Birth of Self* becomes bestseller; blames mothers for autism.

1969- Dr. Kanner exonerates parents of responsibility for their children.

1970- Lorna Wing uses the term autistic spectrum to describe a concept of complexity rather than a straight line from severe to mild.

1972- Dr. Eric Schopler founds Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina.

1977- National Society for Autistic Children added sensory processing as one of the definitions.

1979- Autism spectrum first used by Lorna Wing and Judith Gould

1980- The prevalence is estimated 4 in 10,000

1980- Autism added to DSM-III

1980- Autism is listed as a mental disorder for the first time in the DSM.

1986- Temple Grandin publishes *Emergence: Labeled Autism*

1988- The movie *Rainman* popularized and awareness of the disorder increases among the general public.

1991- Sally Ozonoff suggested executive functioning impairs individuals with autism.

1994- The American Psychiatric Association adds Asperger's disorder to DSM.

1996- Australian sociologist, Judy Singer coins the term *Neurodiversity*

1998- Andrew Wakefield reports an association between autism and MMR and bowel disease.

2000- 1 in 50 children according to the CDC are diagnosed with autism

2006- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network founded. A non profit organization run by and for autistic people.

2009- 1 in 110, children according to the CDC are diagnosed with autism

2012- 1 in 88 children are diagnosed with autism.

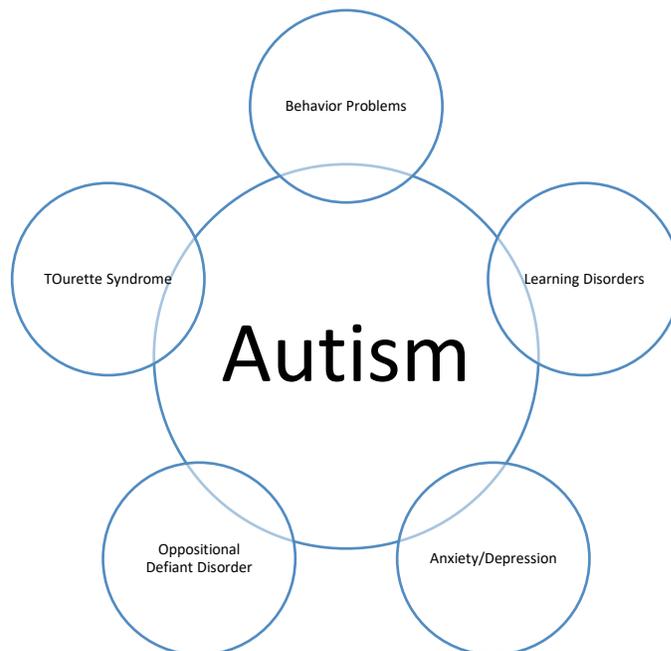
2013- Asperger's disorder is dropped from the DSM-5

2014- 1 in 68 children in the U.S. have autism.

2019- 1 in 59 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Co-Occurring Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often occurs with other disorders.



Associated Disorders

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity/Inattentive Disorder (ADHD)

Sleep Disorders

Dyslexia

Fragile X Syndrome

Dyspraxia

G.I. Issues

Anxiety

Depression

References

Special Needs Resource and Training Blog provides tools, resources and information for people who serve, educate, train and employ individuals with developmental disabilities

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
NIMH- The National Institute of Mental Health