



Impact of autism spectrum disorder on children!

This leaflet will show a brief description of the impact that

autism has on children with the disorder and their family!

"Autism is much more common than many people think.

There are around 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK - that's more than 1 in 100¹.

If you include their families, autism is a part of daily life for 2.8 million people."

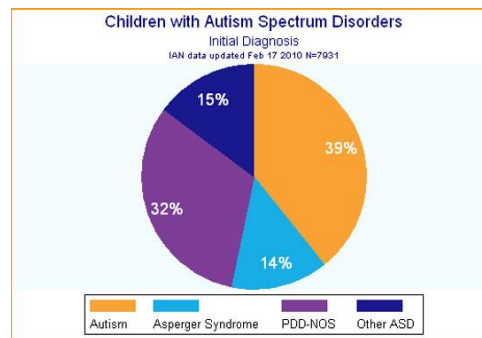
(the national autistic society).

There are three main characteristics of autism in young children.

Alloof- children that don't respond to anything that you say and would rather take you to what they want rather than tell you direct.

Passive- children that are submissive with others and tend to accept What's going on and join in.

Active but Odd- individuals that want to join in on activities but find it difficult to join in in an appropriate way. (Wing and Gauld 1976)



Any illness in a family can be very stressful first there is emotional stress seeing someone you care about in distress and not being able to help them. This can also bring anxiety, fear and sometimes guilt having a child with ASD is stressful because of the obvious symptoms but also the financial burden from treatments and the added stress of finding the appropriate treatment for your child. (David E Grey, 1994)

Communication

This is a massive struggle for children with ASD

They tend to be able to express their own needs but find it

Difficult to see empathy in others. They tend to only want to

do things that interest them and they sometimes have no desire to communicate.

Also, they have a lack of understanding of other people, this is a huge problem

for children with the disorder because it makes it more difficult for them to form

friendships and relationship's which are critical for development

into adulthood.

(Jordan, 1999; wing, 1996; Cumine st al, 2000; Wall, 2004; Dickinson and Hannah, 1998)

Children with ASD often need more health and educational services than children with other special health conditions (CSHCN) to reach their full potential in life. (Bitterman at al 2008, Gurney at al 2006, Montes at al 2009) their service needs are higher because of their core neurobehavioral deficits in communication and repetitive behavior's but also because of their co morbid condition such as depression speech and language difficulties (Howlin, 2005).

What are the Causes?

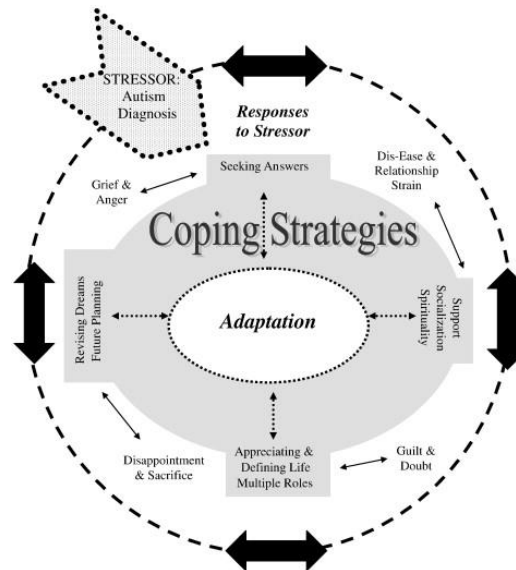
- The puzzle of Autism is that there is no one cause
- Autism can occur as a result of:
 - Rare gene changes or genetic mutations
- +
- Environmental risk factors during or after pregnancy



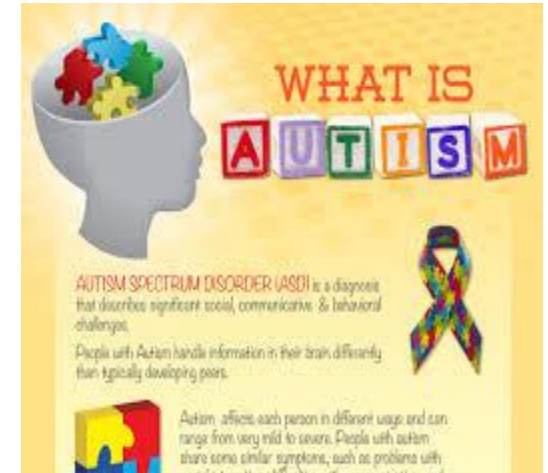
ASD can be seen in children as young as 15 months this is typically the time in which a child begins to develop social skills health visitors have a tool for testing ASD called checklist for autism in toddlers or CHAT and this involves talking to parents/care givers and observing the child in their home environment there is also a modified version of CHAT M-CHAT and a different screening test for Asperger's syndrome. (Baro-Cohen et al 1992)

Children with ASD are usually left out of classroom activities due to their inability to communicate properly because of this they found that giving the children a peer mentor can help them feel more accepted and help them communicate better with the rest of the class the aim of this is to hopefully make them less lonely and to help them with their communication skills (Chamberlain et al, 2007, Kasari et al, 2011, Haring and Breen, 1992, Kamps et al 1997).

Physical and psychological needs of children with ASD can be extremely challenging especially as they grow older (Olsen et al 1999) research was conducted with 15 mothers with children with ASD of all ages 14 of which were male and only one female they were asked about coping strategies and the results were put into a graph which you can see below (Munhall & Fitzsimmons 2001).



It is thought that between 46-89% of children with autism spectrum disorder have problems with feeding (Ledford and Gast 2006) which can include unusual eating rituals and patterns they can also be very selective with their food which can lead to other problems in nutrition and body weight which is an obvious concern for parents. Fussy eating in early years has been reported in children that have later been diagnosed with ASD. (Bandini et al. 2010 Zimmer et al 2012).



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Call the Parents Helpline

Call us for free Mon-Fri from 9:30am to 4pm – available in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

0808 802 5544

Calls may be recorded for

Reference list

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