

1. Key Facts

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a diverse group of conditions. They are characterised by some degree of difficulty with social interaction and communication (WHO,2022).

Children with autism spectrum condition frequently struggle with social skills, making it difficult for them to form friends and, as a result, making the journey to adult life more difficult (National Autistic Society,2020). Autism is significantly more common in boys than in girls’ (Zeliadt, 2013).

2. Common signs (NHS 2019)

Lack of eye contact

Early signs of (ASD) include a tendency to avoid eye contact, which can persist throughout a person's life. Eye contact issues may be a contributing factor to social cognitive difficulties in (ASD), and they can generate major social and professional hurdles (Trevison et al, 2017).

Hand flapping

Barolos states It's a form of repetitive behaviour that might last a short time or a long time. Hand flapping can be a stimming habit in a variety of ways, including Fingers frantically moving Fingers clicking Arms in motion Hand flapping is usually not a cause for concern, and it can be induced by any of the following factors (Barloso,2021).

Challenging Behaviour

Physical violence to others, such as slapping, biting, kicking, and spitting, is an example of challenging behaviour. A child can also cause goods or equipment to be broken or damaged. This behaviour isn't always directed at a specific person.

Repetitive behaviours/obsessions

Many children with autism have intense unique interests, which they develop at an early age in many cases. These might be temporary or permanent, and they can include anything from art or music to trains or computers, among other things. Some youngsters with autism may seek employment or further education in relevant fields, however for others it may remain a recreational activity. When a child's unique interest becomes obtrusive, he or she may require assistance in dealing with the situation.

Limited speech

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have difficulty communicating using both verbal and nonverbal means. Many people have a very literal sense of language and believe that others always mean exactly what they say when they say anything. They may find it difficult to use or comprehend facial expressions or tone of voice, jokes, and sarcasm, as well as common phrases and sayings (Hattersley,2013).

Difficulty with social communication

Autistic children sometimes have trouble grasping other children's thoughts and feelings and displaying their own. This can create challenges for them to fit in socially and make it tougher for them to get along with other kids. Children with autism may have a hard time making friends because they have trouble with social interaction.



3. Treatment

Applied behaviour analysis (ABA)

Applied behaviour analysis is a behavioural way to investigate socially meaningful performance as a result of environmental factors in an experimental context. Applied behaviour analysts have established a lot of processes intended at boosting, lowering, and preserving major human behaviours throughout the previous four decades (Virues-Ortega, 2010)

Nutritional Therapy

Research linking nutrition to ASD has provided a new insight and suggests nutrition may contribute to a proactive treatment by reducing symptoms (Cekici and Sanlier, 2019).

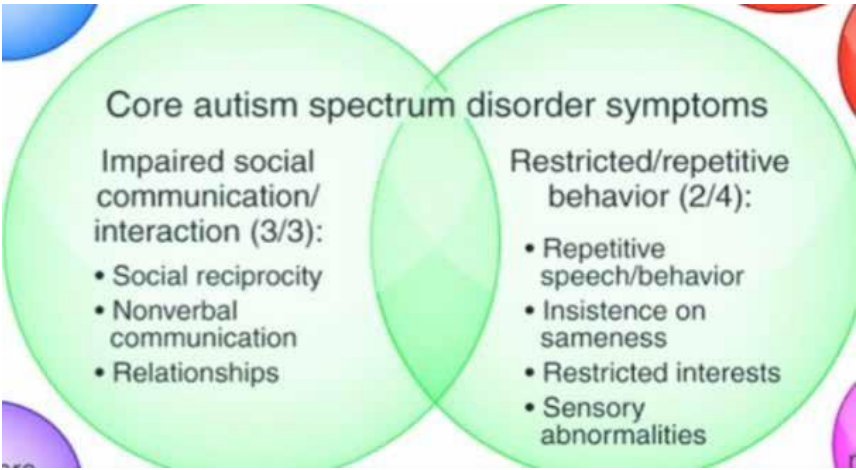
Social skills Training

One of the most difficult aspects of serving the requirements of people with autism is treating social skills deficiencies. For people with autism, it might be difficult to interpret social communication, initiate and participate in social bids, and appreciate the affect that is inherent in social relationships (Weiss, et al 2010).

Speech & Language

Speech-language therapy is used to treat people who have difficulty communicating and communicating effectively. It can assist people with autism spectrum disorders in improving their verbal, nonverbal, and social communication skills. The goal is to assist the individual in communicating in a more helpful and functional manner (Autism speaks, 2022).

4. Diagnosis



(Hewitson, 2013)

In the photograph you can see two circles in order to receive a diagnosis you have to display two out of four symptoms of repetitive behaviour and three out of three on social communication.

5. Charities

Active for Autism

Active for Autism is a small family run charity in Wales who offers financial support for families with children effected by Autism.

Caudwell Children

Caudwell Children is a national charity that works with disabled and autistic children in Staffordshire. They use their state-of-the-art facilities to help children live better lives. The charity's management and running costs are paid for by a kind donor, so all of the money they raise goes directly to the children and families they help (Caudwell Children, 2022).

Children today

Children Today was founded in 1994 to aid children and young adults with disabilities up to the age of 25 in the United Kingdom by providing specialised equipment that can help them lead a more independent life (Children Today,2014).

Family fund

‘Family Fund is the UK’s largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people’ (Family Fund, No Date).

Merlin’s Magic Wand

Families can take advantage of free admission and a travel grant provided by the charity by visiting one of Merlin Entertainments' attractions.

6. Financial Support

DLA

DLA is intended to assist you in covering any additional costs that you may incur as a result of your child's impairment. There are several levels of impairment, ranging from a little extra aid for children with learning problems to severe mental and physical disabilities (Sky Badger, 2022).

Carer’s Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for persons who provide substantial and ongoing care to disabled people. Carer's Allowance is a taxable benefit that is deducted from your gross income (Carer's Allowance, 2020).

7. Educational Support

Individual Education Plan

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a document that aids teachers in planning for your child. It should include learning methodologies and be used to track their progress. The IEP should be based on your child's profile, records, evaluations, strengths, and, if applicable, a statement of SEN. It should make it easier for your child to access and participate in the curriculum (National Autistic Society, 2020).

Statement of Sen

‘A Statement of Special Educational Needs (Statement) is a legal document which sets out a child’s educational needs and outlines how the Education Authority (EA) will meet those needs in an educational setting’ (Senac, 2022).

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