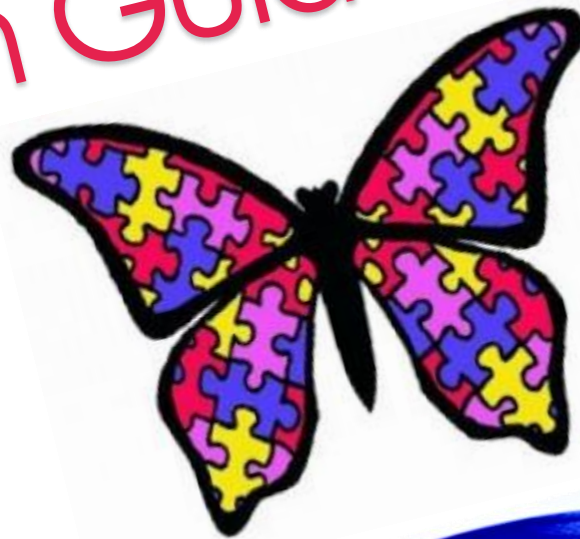


Autism-Spectrum Disorder Information Guide for parents



What is Autism-spectrum disorder?



The condition known as autism spectrum disorder is a collection of childhood neurodevelopmental conditions. Which means, the child may suffer difficulties with repetitive, continuous behaviours and poor social communication.

Raznahan & Bolton, (2008)

Children with autism will have difficulties and will all share similar difficulties, but generally their condition will affect them all in separate ways. This meaning that autism is classed as a "spectrum disorder".

Waugh, I. (2017).



The condition known as "Autism" affects all children differently, either from birth or infancy.

Bolton, P. (1993)

Oh, I get it now!



Evidence based research

It was first believed that autism was a legitimate clinical syndrome in the mid-twentieth century.
Kanner (1943)



All 11 children displayed trouble communicating. For example, mutism and delayed speech were common amongst these children.

During this period, autism was believed to be a rare syndrome, with an estimated prevalence of roughly 2-4 out of every 10,000 children.
(Wing and Porter, 2002)

According to Eisenberg, (1956) childhood autism was initially described due to 11 separate occasions of children's behaviours and their characteristics.

During this phase their behaviours were unique enough to create a new and previously unreported clinical disorder.



How common is Autism in the UK?

Prevalence rates for Autism disorders have displayed a stable rise over the last four decades.

Baron-Cohen, S., Scott, F. J., Allison, C., Williams, J., Bolton, P., Matthews, F. E., & Brayne, C. (2009).

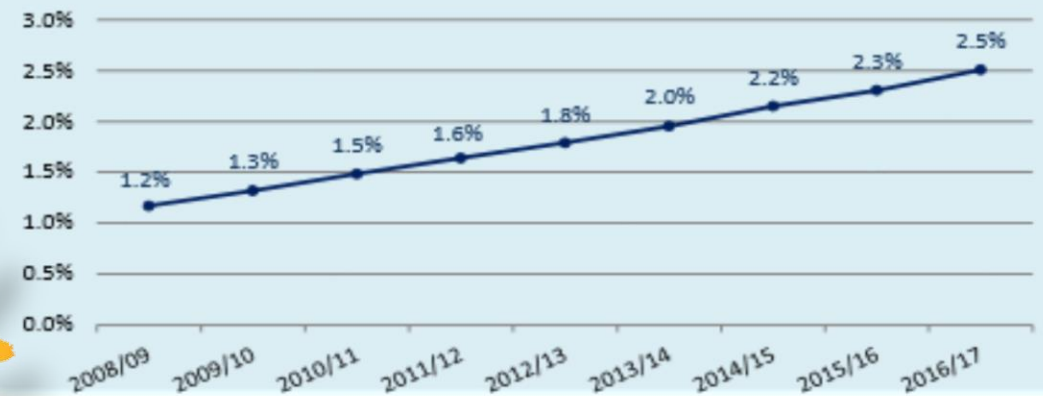
A percentage of 2.5% School aged children in Northern Ireland were identified with the condition called autism.
Waugh, I. (2017).



In 1978, typical Autism was 4 out of 10,000. These figures today for autism-spectrum conditions (including classic autism) affect approximately 1% of the population.

Baron-Cohen, S., Scott, F. J., Allison, C., Williams, et al., (2009).

Autism Prevalence in School Aged Children



These figures demonstrate that the expected prevalence of autism in children who are school age, has risen by a 1.3 percentage from 1.2% in 2008/09 to 2.5% in 2016/17.
Waugh, I. (2017).

What are the signs of autism??

Some autism symptoms can be less serious. Autism-spectrum disorder can go unnoticed in children until they begin school.
Anonymous. (2015).



(Howlin & Moore, 1997) stated that autism, the more frequent and studied of the autism-spectrum disorder conditions, could be recognised by the age of 3.



Children with ASD are very sensitive to sensory information e.g. textures of clothing, noise, smell.
Anonymous. (2015).

Difficulty making and keeping friends
Anonymous. (2015).



Warning signs of autism in babies and toddlers...

Every individual child is different regarding their developmental function and pace. Also, many children learn to communicate earlier than others. There are also numerous milestones which should be reached by all children at a certain age.

Autism is noticed in all children of all ages but the symptoms differentiate depending on the child's age.

At six months of age, if the child does not laugh or squeal, remain stiff or not show any affection, these are warning signs.

At the age of two months, the warning signs of autism are: the inability to respond to loud sounds, the inability to watch things as they move and to bring their hands to their mouths.

Kaminsky, A. (2015)



Behaviors associated with autism In babies and toddlers..

Social

- Shows no affection
- They do not answer to their own name
- They keep a stiff posture
- They have a lack of consideration to other people's feelings

Verbal

- Late speech
- Unclear speech
- Avoids talking to people
- Unable to begin or continue a conversation
- Repetitive speech

Behavioral

- Constant moving or fidgeting
- Extreme behavior
- Shows no interest in toys
- Has to have specific routines
- Has an unusual sensitivity to light or sounds

Kaminsky, A. (2015)

Clinical characteristics for Autism-spectrum disorder



As cited by
Johnson, C. P.,
& Myers, S. M.
(2007)

What are the known causes of Autism-spectrum disorder?



In the previous thirty years, autism was believed to be a result of poor parenting.



As cited by
(Bolton, P.
1993)

This view on autism turned out to be completely wrong.



As cited
by
(Bolton,
P. 1993)

Recently, modern medical research proposes clear biological reasons for autism.

As cited by
(Bolton, P.
1993)

The believed biological causes include viral infections and genetic influences.

As cited by
(Bolton, P.
1993)

How does Autism affect Children's physical wellbeing?



Children who suffer from ASD tend to experience high rates of anxiety (White, et al. 2009)

Children who suffered with ASD also suffered with chronic gastrointestinal problem such as constipation, abdominal pain, swelling and diarrhoea which could last up to at least three months or more. (Buie et al. 2010)

Research suggests that autistic children can identify simple feelings such as anger and happiness (Capps et al., 1993)

According to Adams, J. B. et al., (2011) Autistic children have frequently been reported to have more recurrent and severe gastrointestinal issues than general children in the population.

(American Psychiatric Association, et al. 2004) states that autism lacks motive expression. Although, research has shown that autism does provide amazing capabilities

How does Autism have an impact on education?



Autistic children may also develop decreased performance and start to avoid tasks a lot more often. This is because of their persistent failures. (Clark & Rutter, et al., 1979)

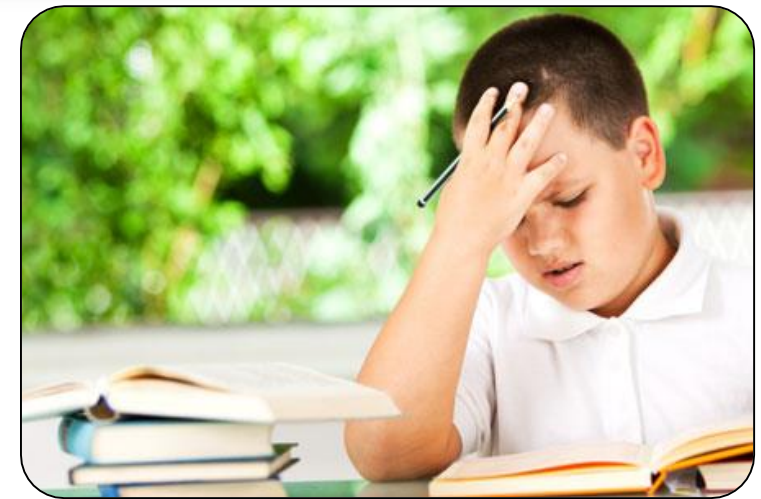
According to the American Psychiatric Association, (1994) a main deficit in autistic children are deficiencies in social interaction, such as having difficulty making friends and starting relationships with their fellow peers.

The reason why children may have trouble making and maintaining friendships is because Autistic children may become "assertive friendly" and attempt to force themselves into playground games with other children.

(Siperstein & Leffert, 1997)

Autistic students face numerous challenges when they are understanding how to read. The difficulties include lack of motivation, poor attention span and difficulties with decoding words (Learning upgrade, 2007)

According to Evans, (2007) Students who suffer with autism have trouble learning to read because they have difficulties understanding the rules of reading and grammar.



How does Autism affect home life?

According to numerous studies, parents and caregivers of children with autism reported numerous levels of depression, anxiety and stress.

(Gray, 1994, 2002; Koegel et al., 1992; Montes & Halterman, 2008; Schieve, Blumberg, Rice, Visser, & Boyle, 2008).

The fathers of the children had stated they had very limited career opportunities and the mothers had stated they had trouble maintaining employment and trouble pursuing social activities.
Gray et al., (1994)



According to Gray, (1994); Montes & Halterman, (2008) the parents and or caregivers of children with autism had reported job related stress.

According to Opperman & Alant, (2003); Bagenholm & Gillberg, (1991) Siblings of children with autism have stated feeling more lonely, isolated and experience less family interactions than siblings of children who suffer from different disabilities than autism.

Where to go for help..

Child Autism UK

Telephone: 01344 882248

<https://www.childdautism.org.uk/>

The National Autistic Society

Telephone: 0845 070 4004

www.autism.org.uk

www.livingautism.co.uk

ADDISS – The National Attention Deficit Disorder Information & Support Service

Telephone: 020 8952 2800

www.addiss.co.uk

Ambitious About Autism

Telephone: 020 8815 5444

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

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