

If there is no cure, then how is autism treated?

Evidence has shown that early educational and behavioral intervention results in greatly improved outcomes for children with autism. A highly structured, specialized and individualized educational program should be utilized.

Some times prescription medications can be used to alleviate symptoms of inattention, aggression, obsessive-compulsiveness or anxiety. Other beneficial therapies include speech and occupational therapy and sensory integration therapies.

Some families report that certain supplements and diets are also helpful. As no two individuals with autism are alike, there isn't a "one size fits all" approach to treating a person with autism.

HELPFUL HINTS for interacting with someone who has autism:

- Speak slowly and use simple language
- Use concrete terms
- Repeat simple questions
- Allow time for responses
- Give lots of praise
- Do not attempt to physically block self-stimulating behavior
- Remember that each individual with autism is unique and may act differently than others

One in 110 children born in the United States today has some form of autism.

Providing Support For Families, Friends and Professionals Dealing with Autism Spectrum Disorders such as:

- Autism
- Asperger's Disorder
- PDD-NOS



"Your First Call for Autism"
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Providing SUPPORT



Autism Spectrum Disorders

for



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What is Autism?

Autism is a neurological condition that affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. It is a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) that affects boys four times more often than girls, and it is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity. Other PDD's include Asperger's Disorder and PDD-NOS (Not otherwise Specified). Each individual with autism improves in functioning over time. Unfortunately, children do not "grow" out of autism. It is a lifelong disability.

It typically appears by the age of three. Autism can be diagnosed in infants as young as 1-year old by observation using proper questionnaires and screening tools. There is no medical or blood test for autism. A developmental pediatrician, neurologist or psychiatrist familiar with developmental disorders can make the diagnosis.

One in 110 children born in the United States today has some form of autism according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2010). Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain. The exact cause of the disorder is unknown.

The disability is found throughout the world in families of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. While people with autism share some basic similarities, each person is an individual with different strengths and challenges.

Although autism is not curable, it is treatable. Early and intensive intervention can ensure the brightest possible future for people with autism.

Children and adults with autism may:

- not understand what you say
- appear deaf
- be unable to speak or speak with difficulty
- engage in repetitive behaviors
- act upset for no apparent reason
- appear insensitive to pain
- appear anxious or nervous
- dart away from you unexpectedly
- engage in self-stimulating behaviors (i.e., hand flapping or rocking)

Autism Questions Answered

Outlook for The Future

As our knowledge grows through research and experience, the future for individuals with autism spectrum disorders grows brighter all the time. Obviously no one can foresee what any child's life will be like when they mature to adulthood, but we now have a clearer view of the range of options for people who have autism, and the possibilities seem endless.

Hope for a brighter future for children and adults with autism continues to grow when everyone works together. Individuals and communities all benefit when parents, advocates, and professionals find common ground. Implementing effective educational programming and developing employment services require teamwork and consistency. With one voice we must work toward appropriate and lifelong services for all people with autism.

Supporting individuals in natural settings now makes it possible for people with even the most severe symptoms of autism to hold meaningful jobs and lead happy, productive lives.

People with autism are enjoying everyday activities such as traveling, shopping, voting, working, continuing to higher education, and leading the way to enlightenment in the field of autism like never before.

The most
important thing
for everyone is to **never**
give up **hope**.



Our Mission

The mission of the ASGC is to serve the autism community by providing information, coordinating support services, and facilitating communication for the benefit of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder from diagnosis through adulthood.

For information on becoming a member or donating to our organization, please contact us via e-mail support@asgc.org, call (216) 556-4937 or visit our website at www.asgc.org. Please call to obtain an updated schedule for our monthly meetings.

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Our Vision

ASGC can empower the autism community to make the Greater Cleveland area the best place to live for those with ASD.

Our Values

- Parents are the ultimate decision-makers as to what is best for their children.
- People with autism can lead productive lives.
- There are ways to improve the lives of people with autism.
- We welcome all therapies without advocating any one of them.
- We believe we can overcome barriers to opportunities for people with autism through education.

Who we are:

The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC) is a chapter of the Autism Society of America (ASA)

We are parents, grandparents, individuals with autism and other family members, friends and professionals who work with individuals with autism.

What we do:

The goal of this Chapter is to help parents, caregivers, individuals with autism and professionals grow in understanding so that you may comfortably and confidently work together toward brighter futures.

We cannot take your place. You have an important role to play in ensuring the best possible outcomes for individuals with autism.

Our efforts are aimed at helping you to make the best decisions possible. We function as a catalyst for change by providing you with the support and the very latest information, so that your insight and talents are able to be used to their fullest potential.

Services Provided:

- Information Meetings
- Educational Programs
- Monthly Support Meetings (with Free Childcare)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Referrals to Other Resources
- Guest Speakers
- Training for Safety Forces
- "Autism IOI" Training
- Training for Religious Education Aides
- Participation in Autism Conferences
- Social Opportunities for Those Affected by ASD
- Regular Fundraisers
- Autism Awareness

