

Autism Facts:¹ Did you know that?

- Autism is a life-long developmental disability now estimated to affect as many as one in every 110 children, and one in 70 boys.
- Autism affects 4 times as many boys as girls, but is diagnosed among children in all socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- While autism is believed to have a genetic component, there is no blood test or other medical test to confirm diagnosis. Autism is diagnosed solely on observed behaviors, most often by a developmental pediatrician.
- Autism is a "spectrum" disorder, meaning that people with autism are affected in different ways and to varying degrees.
- People with autism often have trouble with language and social relationships, and tend to engage in stereotypic and repetitive behaviors.
- Early intervention and quality services are critical to allowing the child with autism to reach his or her cognitive and developmental potential.

¹www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/asd_common.htm

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