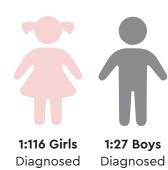
## **Autism Prevalence**

Autism Spectrum Disorder occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, but is about 4 times more common among boys than among girls. According to the CDC, every 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with ASD (2021).



### **AUTISM STATISTICS**

- ▶ 1% of the world population is affected by autism
- ▶ \$262 Billion cost of services per year to support those with autism in the United States
- ▶ Boys are 4x more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.
- ► 2-4 years old is the average age of receiving an **ASD** diagnosis

### **ASD Treatment**

Therapies and behavioral interventions are designed to maximize a child's social behavior. The ideal treatment plan coordinates therapies and interventions that meet the specific needs of the child and family. Most healthcare professionals agree that the earlier the intervention, the better.



Just remember: There is no one-size-fits-all treatment. The goal of treatment is to maximize your child's social skills by minimizing the impact of the autism-related behavior on your child's development and interaction with the environment your child grows up in.



### Help is closer than you think

CAC collaborates with families impacted by autism across Southern California, from our centers conveniently located in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

> For more info: www.cac.co 951.813.4034





## What is Autism?



## What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is defined as a neuro-developmental disorder characterized by an impairment in social communication and by restricted, repetitive behaviors that impact daily, academic, or professional functioning.

ASD is a complex developmental disorder that impacts how people perceive the world and interact with others.







Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects individuals in different ways, and can range from very mild to severe.



# How Does Autism Effect an Individual?

According to the CDC, people with ASD often have difficulty with social, emotional, and communication skills. They might repeat certain behaviors and might not want change in their daily activities. Many people with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things.

### **SOME SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

- ► Poor eye contact; smiling but not smiling at you
- ► Lines up objects; always plays in the same way
- ► Prefers to play alone or with adults/older children only
- ► Looks intently/studies objects; covers ears with loud sounds

## Receiving a Diagnosis

According to the CDC, since there is no medical test (ex. blood test) to diagnose autism spectrum disorder; healthcare providers look at the child's behavior and development to make a diagnosis. A provisional diagnosis of ASD can be made from 12 months on.

### **DIAGNOSING TAKES TWO STEPS:**

**Step 1:** Developmental Screening

**Step 2:** Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation

Beyond the primary care doctor, specialists who can do this type of evaluation are Developmental Pediatricians, Child Neurologists, and Child Psychologists or Psychiatrists.

#### CAC OFFERS DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS.

Comprehensive Autism Center provides comprehensive developmental evaluations of children 0 to 6 years old. These evaluations investigate and diagnose any concerns for autism spectrum disorder, global developmental delay, intellectual disability, or behavior challenges in children with or without mental health problems, such as trauma, depression, and/or anxiety.

