



- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) now affects 1 in 68 children nationally.
- ASD's affects 1 in 45 children in New Jersey; 1 in 28 boys in NJ.
- More children will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined.
- Autism Spectrum Disorders are the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism Spectrum Disorders costs the nation approximately \$137 billion per year, yet it receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.
- Boys are five times more likely than girls to have an autism spectrum disorder.
- There is no medical detection or known "cure" for ASD's.

What are Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)?

- ASDs are **neurodevelopmental disorders** that are characterized by **impairments in social interaction, communication, and behavior.**
- Specifically, individuals with ASDs have difficulty interacting with others and using typical language skills in conversation.

- They also have a restricted range of interests (e.g., "obsessions") and/or engage in repetitive behaviors (e.g., hand clapping, jumping, etc.).
- These deficits are usually evident before the age of 3.
- Individuals with ASDs often have difficulty learning how to perform everyday activities; some have intellectual impairments that cause them to learn "slower" or **differently** than their typical peers.

What red flags in young children may indicate the presence of an ASD?

According to the Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals in New Jersey from the Department of Health, parents or caregivers **should be alert to the following behaviors:**

- No babbling by 12 months
- No pointing or gesturing by 12 months
- No single words by 16 months
- No 2-word phrases by 24 months
- Loss of previously acquired skills, especially language

Some "Famous People" with ASD's.....

Director - Tim Burton

Actors/Actresses - Darryl Hannah, Dan Ackroyd, Matthew Labyorteaux, Jerry Seinfeld, etc.

Singers/Musicians - Matt Savage, Susan Boyle, James Durbin, Courtney Love, etc.

Professor at Colorado State University, book author, etc.: Temple Grandin

It's Okay to be
Different.

