



REGIONAL OFFICES

Albany Regional Office
(660) 726-5246

Central Missouri Regional Office
(573) 882-9835

Hannibal Regional Office
(573) 248-2400

Joplin Regional Office
(417) 629-3020

Kansas City Regional Office
(816) 889-3400

Kirksville Regional Office
(660) 785-2500

Poplar Bluff Regional Office
(573) 840-9300

Rolla Regional Office
(573) 368-2200

Sikeston Regional Office
(573) 472-5300

Springfield Regional Office
(417) 895-7400

St. Louis County Regional Office
(314) 340-6500

St. Louis Regional Tri-County Office
(314) 244-8800

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Facts

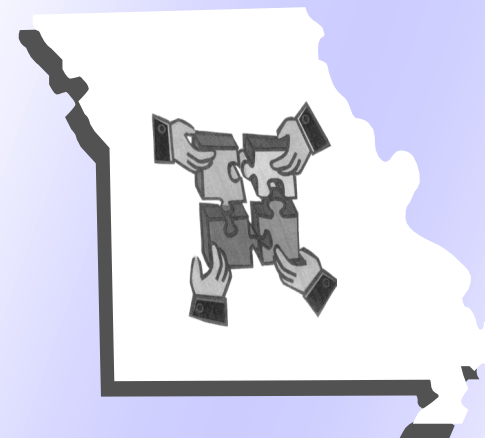
- ASD is the fastest growing disability
- 1 child in 150 has ASD
- 4 out of 5 people with ASD are boys
- There are no racial, ethnic or social boundaries
- Symptoms of ASD are treatable
- ASD affects the way in which people understand and react to the world around them
- ASD is often diagnosed before the age of three
- ASD is not always associated with lower IQ
- It is not your fault and you are not alone

Early Intervention Helps

There are no cures today for Autism Spectrum Disorders, but early diagnosis and interventions are a child's best hope for reaching his or her full potential.

Pb. 10/16/09

Could My Child Have Autism?



Developed by the Central Missouri

Rapid Response Initiative

Rapid Response is a cooperative effort among state and local agencies with a goal of screening children for Autism Spectrum Disorders and providing early interventions.

**Funded by the
Missouri Department of Mental Health
Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Electronic Access to Autism Brochures:
<http://www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd/new/autism09.htm>

Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Autism has a wide range of symptoms, but typically includes difficulties with:

Communication

- Poor or unusual eye contact
- Little to no babbling, pointing, gesturing or words to communicate
- Inconsistent response to name or to people talking
- Repetition of or echoing words or phrases in place of normal language
- Loss of skills they once possessed (e.g. no longer saying words once used)

Social Skills

- Not knowing how to play with or show an interest in other children
- Lack of shared attention, sharing toys or taking turns

Behavior

- Unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
 - Little or no fear of common dangers
 - Unusual or unrealistic fears
 - Craving physical contact or avoiding being touched
 - Restricted or limited interests; preferring same toys, clothing or activity
 - Unusual object use; limited pretend or imaginative play
 - Repeating action over and over again (e.g. hand flapping, rocking, spinning objects, etc.)
 - Difficulty changing routine
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Where to Get Help

If you notice several of these signs on a consistent basis over time, please contact:

For Screening

- Pediatrician
- Primary care doctor
- Your local school district
 - Parents As Teachers
 - Early Childhood Special Education
- Online at www.firstsigns.org

For Diagnosis

- Developmental pediatrician
 - Clinical child psychologist
 - Neurologist
 - Developmental Nurse Practitioner
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Important Questions to Ask

- How do I get my child evaluated?
 - What treatments are available?
 - What specialist should I see for additional supports?
 - How do I pay for these services?
 - What will my school district do to help?
 - What can I do at home to help my child?
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For Help and Guidance

Below are numbers you can call to be linked to your local resources.

Children Birth to 3 years

First Steps, 1-866-583-2392, This number will connect you with the local First Steps Office.
www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/

Department of Mental Health
Division of Developmental Disabilities
1-800-207-9329, www.dmh.mo.gov
Please see back panel for local numbers

Children 3 years and older

Department of Mental Health
Division of Developmental Disabilities
1-800-207-9329, www.dmh.mo.gov
Please see back panel for local numbers

Your Local School District

Parents As Teachers (Birth-5)
Early Childhood Special Education (3-5)

Additional Information and Resources

- Interactive Autism Network (IAN)
www.ianproject.org
 - Missouri Network of Care website (under Developmental Disabilities-Missouri),
www.networkofcare.org
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