

Children of the Stars — Autism

Why You Need to Know About Autism?

Autism is much more common than most people think. Recent data indicates that 1 out of every 68 children has autism. However, people's knowledge of autism is still vague and full of prejudices. Thus, it is important to know what autism is and how you can help those who have it.

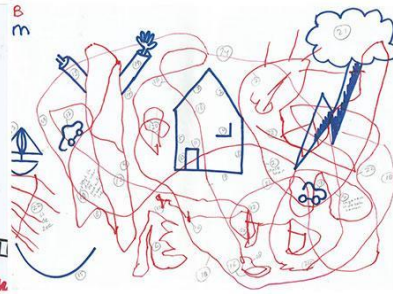


What Is Autism?

- Autism is a developmental disability. It begins during early development either prenatal or by the age of 3
- Autism is not a mental or emotional illness.
- There is no cure for autism yet, and it does not go away
- With good education, intervention, and support, children may improve as they get older



Drawing made by a typically developing 6-year-old kid



Drawing made by a 6-year-old kid who has autism

What are the common signs of autism?

If your child has some of these signs, please tell your doctor:

- ★ Seldom have eye contact
- ★ Does not smile much
- ★ Does not express themselves with body language
- ★ Does not respond to their name
- ★ Poor organizing and problem-solving skills
- ★ Does the same thing over and over
- ★ Has an odd response to sounds or touch



How can autism be treated?



- **Educational and Behavioral Programs**
Teachers and therapists in these programs can help children learn new behaviors and gain social and language skills. Because children learn quickly when they are very young, this type of therapy should begin as early as possible.
- **Medication**
Medications do not cure autism, but certain kinds of medications can reduce difficult behaviors in some children.

Consult with your pediatrician for more information on management of autism or for referrals.



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