

Signs and Symptoms

- Extreme difficulty in learning language.
- Inappropriate response to people. A child with autism may avoid eye contact, resist being picked up or cuddled.
- Inability or reduced ability to play cooperatively with other children or to make friends.
- Inability to understand other people's feelings.
- Need for a rigid, highly structured routine -- and being very distressed by changes in routines.
- Extreme hyperactivity or unusual passivity, and extreme resistance to change.
- Aggressive, self-injurious behavior.
- Repetitive body movements, including pacing, hand flicking.

Resources & Information



Symptoms

- <http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/understanding-autism-symptoms>

Treatment

- <http://www.autism-society.org/>

Statistics

- <http://www.aota.org/autism>



What is Autism?



Description

Children with autism often have extreme difficulty developing normal relationships with others. They tend not to share in the interests their peers have. In many cases these children are not able to interpret non-verbal cues of communication like facial expressions. Most people with autism have some impairment in language and many never speak at all.

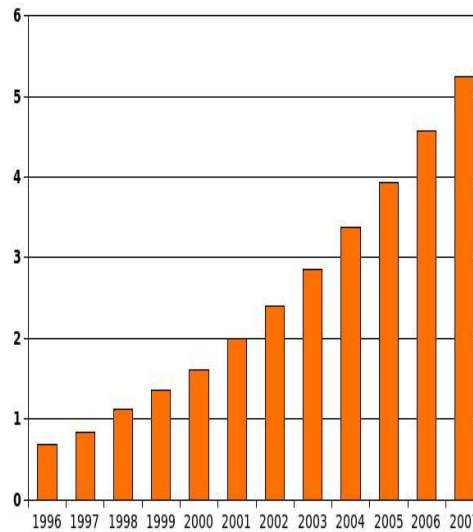
About 8.7 of every 10,000 children are autistic, and more than 1 in 300 children have some form of pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). PDD means that some, but not all, symptoms of autism are present.

Autism is a lifelong disease that ranges in severity from mild cases in which the autistic person can live independently, to severe forms in which the patient requires social support and medical supervision throughout his or her life.

Graph

Below is a graph showing the rise of Autism in the US in the last 11 years.

(The numbers of the left correspond to 100,000's)



Statistics

- 1 in 110 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder each year.
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with aids, diabetes and cancer combined.
- Autism prevalence rose 57% between 2002 and 2006
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- Autism is the fastest growing serious development disability in the U.S
- 1 in 70 boys is on the autism spectrum

