

Autism

WHAT IS AUTISM

Autism is one of the most common developmental disabilities. People with Autism have differences in the way their brains develop and process information. As a result they face significant communication, social, and behavior challenges. Autism affects about 1 in 88 children. Symptoms usually appear by about 18 months of age, and are usually diagnosed between the ages of 2 to 3 years. Autism affects children of all intelligences, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It affects boys more often than girls. There is no cure for Autism but early diagnosis and treatment can help children with Autism develop skills and achieve their potential.

AUTISM SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of Autism vary from person to person. Some may experience mild to severe symptoms in varying areas of function. Signs of Autism may include:

- Unaware of others
- Preference for being alone
- Trouble interacting, playing, or relating to others
- Little or no eye contact with others
- Unusual or repetitive movement (hand flapping, spinning, tapping)
- Repeating the same word or phrase
- Repeating what others have said
- Laugh, cry, or seem upset for no apparent reason
- Delays in developmental milestones

- Loss of already achieved developmental milestones
- Low muscle tone, clumsiness, and poor special awareness.

HELP FOR AUTISM

Children with Autism benefit from early diagnosis and intervention services. Child may qualify to receive services through Early Intervention services through ages birth to three. Once the child is three they may receive benefit from an Individual Education Plan or a 504 Plan through their local school system through high school graduation and beyond. Behavioral therapy is also beneficial. Some individuals may utilize medications to address behavioral concerns. An integrated combination approach to interventions and support is beneficial for children with Autism. For families there are many local and national support resources on Autism. APEC can help to connect families to support resources and provide educational training in IEPs and 504 plans.

APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center.

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