

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 for Autism Spectrum Disorders, but early diagnosis and interventions are a child's best hope for reaching his or her full potential.

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

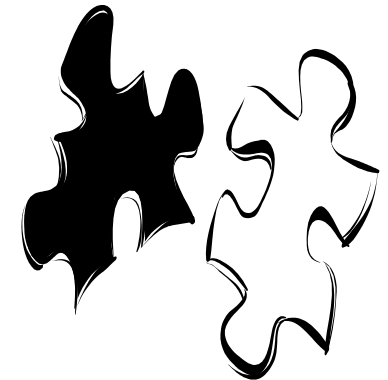
Sikeston Regional Office
(573) 472-5300

Springfield Regional Office
(417) 895-7400

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

St. Louis Regional Office (St. Louis City, St. Charles/Jefferson County)
(314) 244-8800

**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 Mental Retardation
Developmental Disabilities**

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
- Often does not respond when called by name or when spoken to
- Repeats or echos words or phrases in place of normal language
- Loses skills (e.g. the child stops saying words used in the past)

Social Skills

- Little interest in other children
- Does not look at what others are interested in
- Does not show objects of interest to others
- Lack of interest in social games or play with others

Behavior

- Has unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
 - Unusual or unrealistic fears
 - Avoids being touched
 - Restricted or limited interests—prefers same toys, clothing or activity
 - Unusual use of objects
 - Limited pretend or imaginative play
 - Repeats action over and over again (e.g. hand flapping, rocking, spinning objects, etc.)
 - Difficulty with change in routine
-

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
 - Health care assessment team
-

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?
-

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 Mental Retardation 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 Mental Retardation 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
-