

1. AUTISM: What is it?

- Autism is a neurological and developmental syndrome that is found in 1 in 68 people in every country in the world in every type of family.
- Autism is different in each person, but most people with Autism have differences in their speech, social skills and behavioral that affects some areas of their development.
- Autism is NOT caused by something a parent did or by vaccines. Research is underway; but there is no proven cause for Autism so far. Parents should be very cautious of things they read on the Internet and review them with experts.
- Autism is different in each person. It has different levels and affects a person through their whole life. There are many therapies that have been scientifically proven to help people with Autism reach success, however, there is no known cure at this time.
- Children with the best outcomes have supports from the community, their school and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, their family- all working and learning together.

Here are some videos that you might find helpful in understanding Autism.



Kennedy-Krieger Institute: This video shows what young children look like with Autism compared to children who do not have Autism.

<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-centers/center-autism-and-related-disorders/outreach-training/early-signs-of-autism-video-tutorial>



“Real Movies for Real Families” You Tube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVtUXrRRBohcQahB-Ft6uA>



“Autism For Asian Families “ is translated into Chinese, Khmer (Cambodian), Vietnamese, Nepali, Korean, Japanese and Indonesian.



“Autismo Para Familias Latinas” (Autism for Latino Families) is in both English and Spanish



“Autism for African American Families, Parts 1 and 2”



Many helpful short videos for families about Autism.

http://raisingchildren.net.au/children_with_autism/children_with_autism_videos.html

2. AUTISM: What To Do Next?

- Every child's diagnosis of Autism is different. At different times, children and families may need different supports.
- Some people may want to get a second opinion.
- Some people may want to talk with others or who know how this feels.
- Some people may want to get more information.
- Children with Autism will need both Educational **AND** Behavioral services:

For FREE **EDUCATIONAL** support information call: CONNECT at 1800-692-7288

For **BEHAVIORAL** supports call your insurance company:

- If you have Medical Assistance call CBH at 1-888-545-2600
- If you have private insurance, call to the number on the back of your insurance card to find out about Behavioral Supports for Autism.
- Children in Pennsylvania diagnosed with Autism can get Medical Assistance as a secondary insurance. See www.pccy.org or call 215-563-5848 (Spanish spoken).
- "The A-List" has a guide to Philadelphia behavior programs, find it at: www.elwyn.org/programs/seeds/

If you live in Philadelphia, to find out what your **next steps** might be, call or check out:



Autism Society of America: Warm-line: 610-358-5256 <http://www.asaphilly.org/>



PA ASERT Warmline: 877-231-4244 (any language) <http://www.paautism.org/>



PEAL Center: Warmline: 866-950-1040 (Spanish spoken) www.pealcenter.org/



Elwyn Parent Partners 215-222-4181 (any language)

To find out what you can do at home check out:



Real Look Autism <http://www.reallookautism.com/other-videos/>




Toolkits on every topic: from toilet training, haircuts, IEPs and ABA therapy
Available in Spanish. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits>

3.AUTISM: Help and Information

- Keeping informed about community supports, events and trainings is the best way for families to help their children. There is something for every one.
- Family members (including siblings) need accurate information and support. Perhaps you can designate a helpful family member or friend to be your child's community outreach contact if you are too busy! They don't even have to live in Philadelphia to help you out!
- As your child grows, the information you and your family need will also change.
- Find a community connection that works for you: phone, social media, on-line or in person. Exciting things are happening in Philadelphia every day for people with Autism, stay informed!

HERE ARE SOME PLACES TO CHECK OUT:




Autism Society of America/Greater Philadelphia Chapter ASA www.asaphilly.org ,
Email list-serve, , phone support, activities, events, advice and information




PhillyAutism www.phillyautism.webs.com , fun community events for families, support and information groups, phone support




Autism Center of Excellence 1-855-ASD-PACE  "PACE Caregiver Connection"
Caregiver groups for everyone, sibling groups, events and trainings, information



Child Guidance Resource Center Autism Center of Excellence 267-713-4100
Caregiver Group, , Family trainings about resources and services



Autism Sharing and Parenting <http://www.autismsharingandparenting.org/index.html>
Local non-profit parent advocacy, support, information and training group List serve, 



PhillyAutismProject www.paautism.org Resources, events, trainings and a map of Philadelphia Support Groups



Philly ICC <http://www.philadelphiaicc.org/> 267-294-6065. For families of children with special needs get resources & information. , , list-serve, events and trainings