

What is Autism?

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. The result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism and its associated behaviors have been estimated to occur in as many as 1 in 68 individuals. Today, there are over 10,000 individuals with some sort of autism in Central Florida. Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries. Family income, lifestyle, and educational levels do not affect the chance of autism's occurrence. Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Children and adults with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interaction, and leisure or play activities. The disorder makes it hard for them to communicate with others and relate to the outside world. In some cases, aggressive and/or self-injurious behavior may be present. Persons with autism may exhibit repeated body movements (hand flapping, rocking), unusual responses to people or attachments to objects and resistance to changes in routines. Individuals may also experience sensitivities in the five senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste

What is the Cause of Autism?

Researchers from all over the world are devoting considerable time and energy into finding the answer to this critical question. Medical researchers are exploring different explanations for the various forms of autism. Although a single specific cause of autism is not known, current research links autism to biological or neurological differences in the brain. In many families there appears to be a pattern of autism or related disabilities - which suggest there is a genetic basis to the disorder - although at this time no gene has been directly linked to autism. The genetic basis is believed by researchers to be highly complex, probably involving several genes in combination.

Is there a Cure?

There is no cure today. However, characteristics of autism are treatable and individuals with autism can lead a fulfilling and happy life.



Individuals with autism usually exhibit at least half of the traits listed below. These symptoms can range from mild to severe and very intensity from symptom to symptom. In addition, the behavior usually occurs across many different situations and is consistently inappropriate for their age.

- Insistence on sameness; resists change in routine
- Severe language deficits
- Difficulty in expressing needs; uses gestures or pointing instead of words
- Echolalia (repeating words or phrases in place of normal responsive language)
- Laughing, crying, or showing distress for reasons not apparent to others
- Prefers to be alone: aloof manner
- Tantrums - displays extreme distress for no apparent reason
- Difficulty in mixing with others
- May not want cuddling or act cuddly
- Little or no eye contact
- Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
- Sustained odd play
- Spins objects
- Inappropriate attachment to objects
- Apparent oversensitivity/ under-sensitivity to pain
- No real fear of dangers
- Noticeable physical over-activity or extreme under-activity
- Not responsive to verbal cues; acts as if deaf although hearing tests in normal range
- Uneven gross/fine motor skills (may not kick a ball but can stack blocks)

Please note this symptom list is not a substitute for a full-scale diagnostic assessment.



A membership with the Autism Society of Greater Orlando Inc is just \$40.00 per year. Who can become a member? Anyone who would like to support individuals with autism including Moms, Dads, Brothers, Sisters, Grandparents, Other Family Members, Therapists, Teachers, Doctors, and Businesses. If you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the membership application on the back of this brochure or visit our website at www.asgo.org and join right over our secured site.

Benefits of Membership:

- Emails that keep you informed of upcoming events, news, and information
- Social Skills Groups that meet out in the community several times per month
- Social Events bring all family members together in a fun and supported activity
- Awareness activities that promote autism in the Central Florida community
- Fundraising opportunities that support our organizational goals.
- Trainings for police officers, hospital staff, educators
- And MORE

Support Us

The Autism Society of Greater Orlando is a 501 (c) (3) - not for profit organization. We depend on your support to provide much needed services to families of children and adults with autism. There are many ways in which you can help support the Autism Society of Greater Orlando. 100% of all donations stay right here in Central Florida to support our local families. Donations can be made over our secured site at www.asgo.org.



ASGO Membership Application

New member Renewal

HOUSEHOLD LAST NAME: _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL WITH AUTISM: _____

DOB: _____ OFFICAL DIAGNOSIS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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**Please List all immediate (Mom, Dad, Siblings)
family members included in this membership:**

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

Name: _____ **DOB:** _____ **Relationship:** _____

-
 Enclosed is my membership fee of \$40.00 per year

I would like to make a donation

-
Payment:

Check (made payable to ASGO)

Credit Card (MASTER CARD and VISA only please)

Credit Card # _____

Expiration: _____

V-Code: _____ (last 3 digits on the back of the card)

Signature: _____

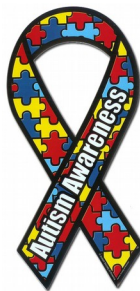
About ASGO

The Autism Society of Greater Orlando was founded in 1996 by a group of volunteer parents to better assist families of children and adults with autism in the Central Florida area. The mission of the Autism Society of Greater Orlando is that all individuals within the autism spectrum will be provided a lifetime network of opportunities to become fully accepted, included, and actively participating members of our community, through family support, education, advocacy, and public awareness.

The Autism Society of Greater Orlando is primarily a volunteer organization. Most of the volunteers are parents that understand what it is like to live with autism on a daily basis. We do not know all of the answers and most of us are not professionals in the field. However, we are here to help support you and your family.

The Autism Society of Greater Orlando is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our funds for dissemination of information, workshops, conference grants, social events, training, and more are derived from fund raising, private donations, ticket sales to events, and membership dues.

We do not endorse or dismiss any specific treatment, professional, and/or services. We are a source of information and support to families of children and adults with autism. We offer social opportunities for individuals with autism to be included in the community. We believe that all individuals with autism are their own unique person and should be treated as such.



Supporting Children & Adults with Autism

*Twenty years ago, the rate of diagnosis was 1 out of 10,000.
Today, autism affects 1 out of 68 children.*

For more information on autism, please contact:

Autism Society of
Greater Orlando
1650 Sand Lake Road
Suite 235
Orlando, FL 32809
407-855-0235
407-855-5129 (fax)

www.asgo.org

501(c)(3) – not-for-profit organization