

April – Autism

Awareness Month

Autism – What Is It?

- Autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development.
- ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues.

Autism Diagnosis and Symptoms:

- Autism cannot be diagnosed through medical tests; specialists administer autism-specific behavioral evaluations to determine a diagnosis.
- Symptoms include social-interaction difficulties, communication challenges and a tendency to engage in repetitive behaviors.
- Symptoms and symptom severity can vary.

Autism Statistics:

- Autism currently affects 1 in 68 children.
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S.
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

Treatment:

- Autism is treated with intervention plans specific to each individual, which includes behavioral treatments, medicines, or both.

World Autism Awareness Day:

- April 2, 2015, 8th annual World Autism Awareness Day
- Autism organizations around the world celebrate the day with fundraising and awareness-raising events.
- United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2 as World Autism Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of children and adults.

References:

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>
<http://www.un.org/en/events/autismday/>