Florida New Diagnosis & Timely Interventions

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What we will cover today

• Welcome and Introductions
• Our Impact, Mission and Objectives
• Autism Overview
• The Journey to a Diagnosis
• New Diagnosis Tools and Family Resources
• No Need to Wait
• Advocating for your Child
• Connect with Us
• Q&A
Our mission objectives

Impact Statement:

*Autism Speaks is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.*
An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder
What is autism spectrum disorder?

- Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by **challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication**.
- There is not one autism but many subtypes.
- Each person with autism can have unique strengths and challenges.
- Autism is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental influences.
- Autism is often accompanied by medical issues, seizures and sleep disorders.
How prevalent is autism?

Autism affects an estimated **1 in 44 children and 1 in 45 adults** in the U.S.

Autism is more prevalent among **boys with 1 in 27 diagnosed; as compared to 1 in 116 girls**

The United Nations estimates that **70 million people** are affected worldwide.
A person with autism may...

- Have great attention to detail
- Be highly skilled
- Have deeply focused interests
- Use high levels of visual processing
- Direct and honest
A person with autism may...

- Not respond to their name
- Avoid eye contact
- Have trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Communication challenges
- Repeat words or phrases
- Become upset by changes in routine
- Have intense interests
- Repetitive Behavior – a ‘stim’ can be flapping hands, rock their body, spin in circles, etc.
- Have intense reactions to sensory input: sounds, smells, taste, seeing or feel
- Have increased need for safety resources

“When I stiffen my arms, I mean you no harm.”
The Journey to a Diagnosis
First Concern to Action

- Understanding your child’s development
- Talk to your doctor about a screening
- Getting an evaluation
- Access early intervention and treatment, if needed
- Trust your instincts!
Take the M-CHAT at no cost at autismspeaks.org. It's a short questionnaire that general practitioners, parents and other non-specialists can use as a way to screen children who might have a concern for autism or developmental delay. Early screening and diagnosis make a world of difference!
How an autism diagnosis can benefit my child.
New Diagnosis Tools and Resources
Tools to get you started

Autism Speaks offers a series of comprehensive tool kits to autistics and their families to start your journey and access the services and supports you may need.

• The **100 Day Kit for Families of Newly Diagnosed Young Children** (Under 5)

• The **100 Day Kit for Families of Newly Diagnosed School Age Children** (5-13)

Access tool kits at [autismspeaks.org/tool-kit](http://autismspeaks.org/tool-kit)
Family Support

Guides for family members of someone with autism, including:
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Siblings

Health and wellness resources

Tools to promote a healthier lifestyle for you and your family, including:
- Strategies to foster sleep for people with autism
- Financial planning resources and information
- Help with nutrition, feeding and other eating-related challenges
What next?
No need to wait!

- Talk with your Pediatrician to see if any additional evaluations are needed, such as speech-language, occupational therapy, or hearing test.
- Contact Autism Speaks Autism Response Team 1-888-Autism2.
- Attend parent support, education, or training sessions on autism.
No need to wait! con’t.

• You are an important intervention partner

• Establish routines (bath, meals, bedtime), support these routines with visual supports

Check out www.autismspeaks.org for tool kits to help
Caregiver Skills Training

WHO Caregiver Skills Training

For whom
Caregivers of children aged 2–9 years who have developmental delays or disabilities
Specific focus on caregivers of children with delays or impairments in social and communication domains

Aims
• Increase caregivers’ skills to promote their children’s development and well-being through joint engagement in play and home routines.
Introducing eCST

- Online version of CST that caregivers can use in a self-paced manner
- Expands the reach of CST content to more caregivers
- Expect that it will be used independently by caregivers or paired with coaching where applicable.
Becoming a Strong Advocate
Becoming a Strong Advocate

- Identify the goal of advocacy
- Develop a plan or a strategy
- Consider all possible solutions
- Follow-Up
Ways to Connect with Us!
Advocate With Us!

Get Engaged with our Grassroots Advocacy Network
www.autismspeaks.org/grassroots-advocacy-network

Lead thru the Advocacy Ambassador Program

Social Media

Facebook | Autism Speaks Advocacy

Twitter | @AutismVotes

Instagram | @AutismVotes
WEBINAR MISSION SERIES

We journey together.

Our work helps ensure that all people with autism have the resources they need to reach their full potential and live life the fullest – we're here to help.

autism speaks®

Free webinars on key topics supporting autistic people, caregivers and providers in Florida.

AUG 17, 2022    New Diagnosis & Timely Interventions
SEPT 28, 2022    Adulting on the Spectrum
OCT 11, 2022     Pathways to Early Intervention & Support in the Latino Community*
(NO submit email to be notified when registration opens.)
NOV 17, 2022     Autism Friendly & Inclusion: Leading the Way
FEB 22, 2023     Service Provider Connect

Registration required. Select topic above or visit autismspeaks.org/FLMissionSeries

For questions or more information, the Florida Autism Speaks team is here for you:
Florida@autismspeaks.org
Broward Walk
Sunday, September 25, 2022
FLA Live Arena

Tampa Bay Walk
Sunday, October 30, 2022
Raymond James Stadium

Central Florida Walk
Saturday, November 12, 2022
Cranes Roost Park

Miami Walk
Sunday, November 13, 2022
Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center
How to contact the Autism Response Team

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in all time zones

By phone: Your call will be routed to the team member for your region. We also have a dedicated Spanish language toll-free number.
1-888-AUTISM2 (1-888-288-4762)
En español: 1-888-772-9050

By email: Reach us at help@autismspeaks.org
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET

By live chat: Connect at autismspeaks.org
Connect with Us

To find the latest resources, information and activities in our community, join us on social media:

@autismspeaks  @autismspeaks  linkedin.com/company/autism-speaks
facebook.com/autismspeaks

Facebook groups for individuals and families:
Navigating a New Autism Diagnosis
Voces Latinas de Autism Speaks: for Spanish-speaking families
Transition to Adulthood: An Autism Speaks Community
Adulting on the Spectrum: Networking for Autistic Adults
Employment WINs: An Autism Speaks Community
Webinar Links

**FL New DX and Timely Interventions**


Slide 11 - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/screen-your-child](https://www.autismspeaks.org/screen-your-child)


Slide 18 – Early Intervention - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/interventions-autism](https://www.autismspeaks.org/interventions-autism)

Slide 19 & 20 – CST - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/caregiver-skills-training-program](https://www.autismspeaks.org/caregiver-skills-training-program)

Slide 20 - eCST Platform - [https://openwho.org/courses/caregiver-skills-training](https://openwho.org/courses/caregiver-skills-training)

Slide 24 – Advocacy - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy](https://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy)

Slide 25 – FL Webinar Series - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/services-and-support-activities](https://www.autismspeaks.org/services-and-support-activities)

Slide 26 – FL Walk - [https://www.autismspeaks.org/florida-area-events](https://www.autismspeaks.org/florida-area-events)

Slide 27 & 28 – ART – [Help@autismspeaks.org](mailto:Help@autismspeaks.org)
Questions?