



autism speaks®

Florida New Diagnosis & Timely Interventions

August 17, 2022

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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



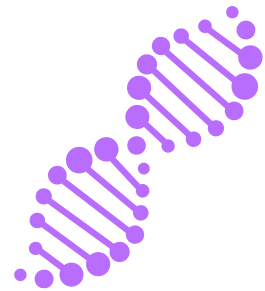
Our mission objectives

Impact Statement:

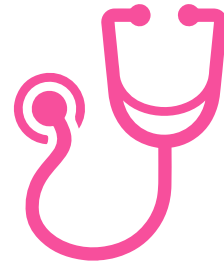
Autism Speaks is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.



Increasing global
**understanding and
acceptance of**
people with autism



Being a catalyst
for life-enhancing
**research
breakthroughs**



Increasing early
childhood **screening**
and timely
interventions



Improving the
transition
to **adulthood**



Ensuring access to
reliable information
and **services**
throughout the
life span



An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder

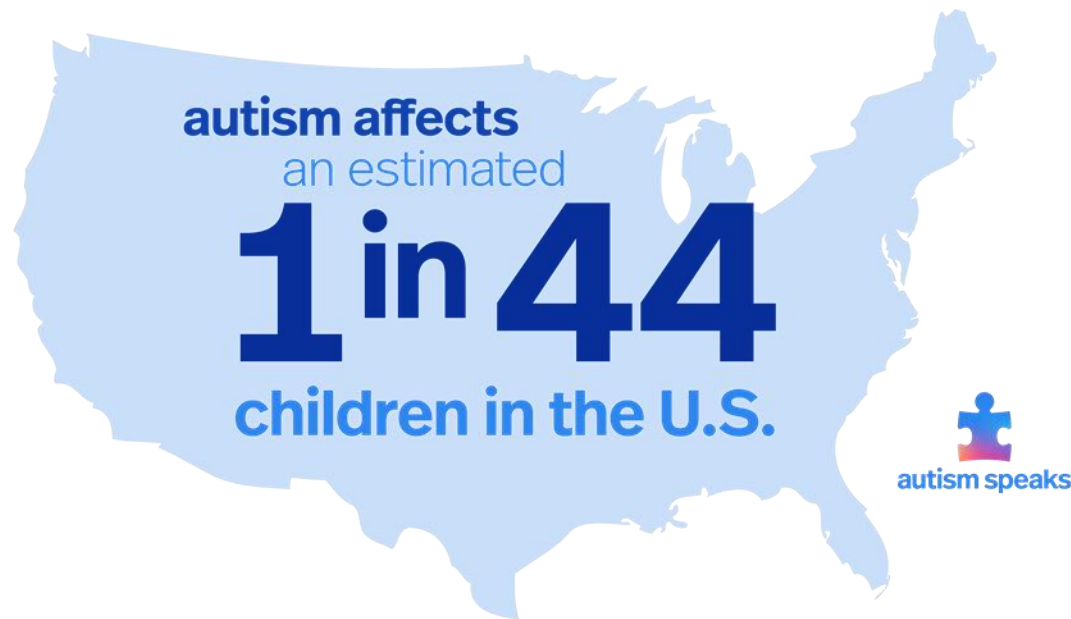
What is autism spectrum disorder?



- 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

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prevalence estimates are for 8-year-old children and reflect data 4 years prior to the report date (e.g. 2021 figures are from 2018).

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



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!



**First Concern
to Action:
Addressing
Concerns with
Your Child's
Development**



Early childhood screening and timely intervention

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!

**THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND
HER WORLD, THE MORE
POSSIBILITIES YOU SEE.**

For Julia's family, early screening for autism made a lifetime of difference. Find out more at ScreenForAutism.org

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**CUANTO MÁS ENTIENDAS SU
MUNDO, MÁS POSIBILIDADES
ENCONTRARÁS.**

Para la familia de Julia, la detección temprana del autismo hizo una diferencia de por vida. Conoce más sobre la detección temprana en DeteccionDeAutismo.org.

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How an autism diagnosis can benefit my child.





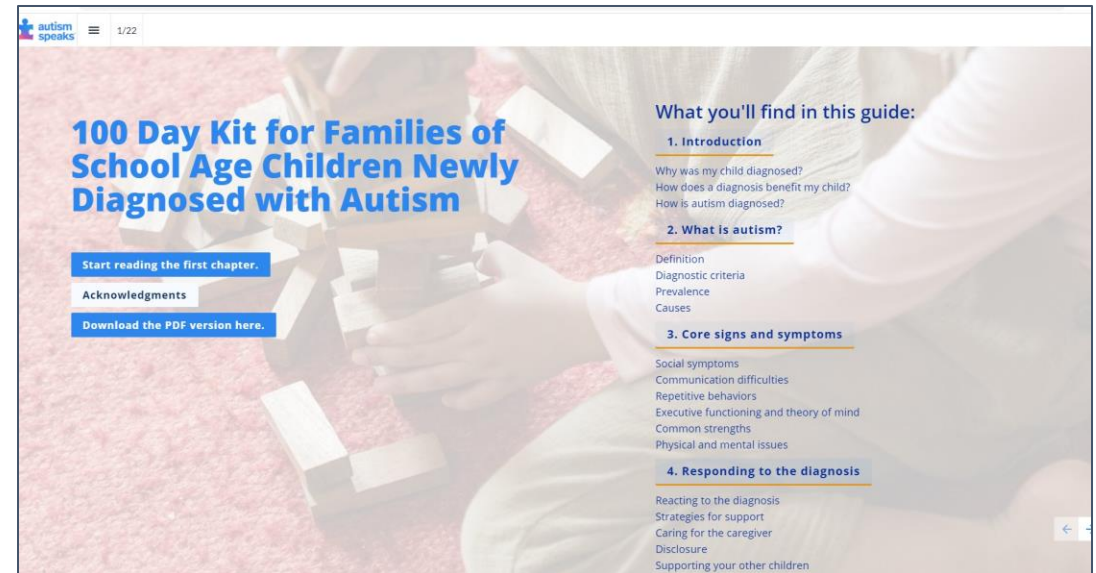
New Diagnosis Tools and Resources



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



Family Support

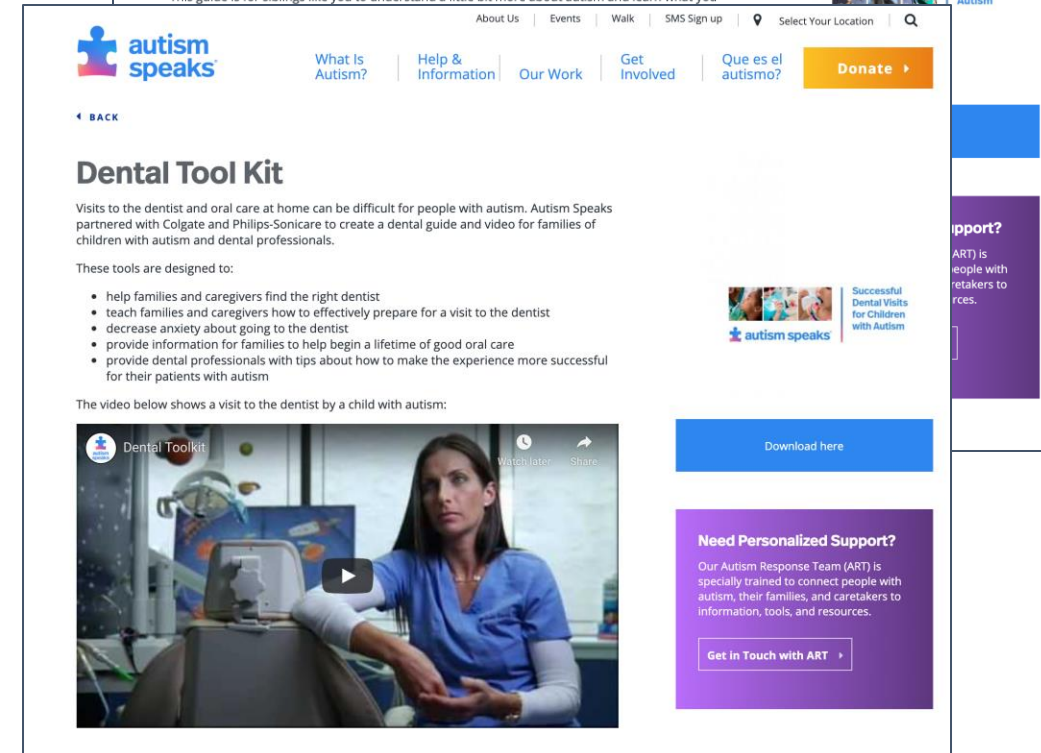
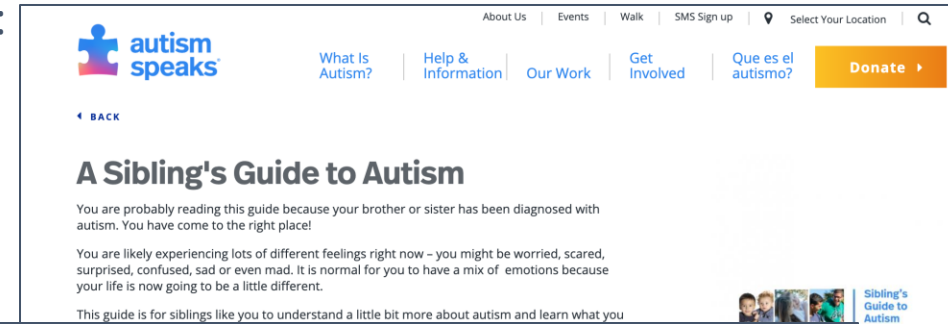
Guides for family members of someone with autism, including:

- 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





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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

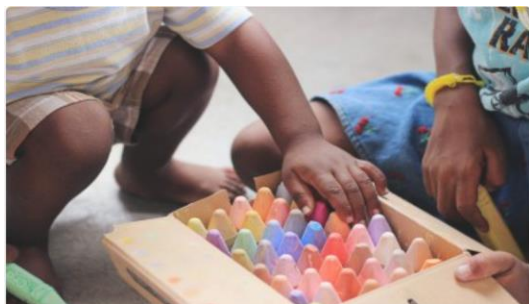
Specific focus on caregivers of children with **delays or impairments in social and communication domains**

Aims

- Increase caregivers' skills to promote their children's development and well-being through joint engagement in play and home routines.



Introducing eCST



Programme Overview for You and Your Child

A caregiver skills training for children with developmental disorders and delays.



Course 1: Getting Children Engaged and Communication

In this course, you will learn how to get children engaged through everyday activities and games.



Course 2: Preventing and Teaching Alternatives to Challenging Behaviour to Help Children Stay Engaged

In this course, you will learn how to respond to challenging behaviors and help your child stay calm and engaged.



Course 3: Teaching New Skills, Problem Solving, and Self-Care

In this course, you will learn how to teach your child new skills for everyday life using small steps. You will also learn how to cope with stress through beneficial self-care practises.

- 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](http://www.autismspeaks.org/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](#)



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.



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*](#)
(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 10 – <https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/first-concern-action-tool-kit>

Slide 11 - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/screen-your-child>

Slide 14 & 15 – Toolkits – www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit

Slide 18 – Early Intervention - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/interventions-autism>

Slide 19 & 20 – CST - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/caregiver-skills-training-program>

Slide 20 - eCST Platform - <https://openwho.org/courses/caregiver-skills-training>

Slide 24 – Advocacy - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy>

Slide 25 – FL Webinar Series - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/services-and-support-activities>

Slide 26 – FL Walk - <https://www.autismspeaks.org/florida-area-events>

Slide 27 & 28 – ART – Help@autismspeaks.org



Questions?