

## Autism St. John's

Autism St. John's - Autism is a neural development disorder which is characterized by impaired communication, social interaction and by restricted and repetitive behavior. These characteristics normally present before a child is 3 years old.

Autism affects the way the nerve cells and their synapses organize and connect and this affects how information is processed in the brain. Why and how this occurs is not really understood. There are 3 recognized disorders within the autism spectrum: Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified, that is usually abbreviated as PDD-NOS, and Asperger Syndrome. Asperger Syndrome lacks delays within language and cognitive development. PDD-NOS are diagnosed when the full set of criteria for Asperger Syndrome or autism are not met.

There seems to be a strong genetic basis for autism. The genetics of autism are complicated. It is not clear whether these conditions are explained by rare combinations of common genetic variants or more by rare mutations. In several conditions, autism is strongly associated with agents that lead to birth defects. There have been debates surrounding proposed environmental reasons like heavy metals and pesticides. At one point there was concern concerning childhood vaccines although this hypothesis is biologically implausible and lacks substantial scientific proof.

The prevalence of autism around the world presently affects 1 to 2 individuals for every one thousand. The CDC or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, reports that roughly 9 out of one thousand children are diagnosed with a form of autism. Ever since the 1980s the number of people diagnosed has significantly increased. This can be partly because of the changes in diagnostic procedures. It is difficult to determine if the actual prevalence has increased.

Parents would usually begin to notice signs of autism in the first 2 years of their child's life. The indications would slowly develop, whilst several kids would initially develop more normally and next they regress. Early behavioural therapy or cognitive intervention could help autistic kids gain self-care, social skills and communication skills.

There have been some instances where kids have recovered, though there is no known cure. Some people believe that changes to the food intake and the prevention of certain environmental chemicals and additives would help to treat this condition. Nearly all kids with autism do not live independently once they reach adulthood, but some have become successful.

### Characteristics

Autism has lots of characteristics which are highly variable. This neuro-developmental disorder initially appears all through childhood or infancy and normally follows a steady course without remission. Several signs appear about 6 months of age and after that become more established by age 2 or 3, and could continue into adulthood. Autism is characterized by a triad of symptoms consisting of: restricted interests, communication impairments, impairments in social interaction, and repetitive behavior.