

# April is

## NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



### What is Autism?

- Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3.
- Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function. Individuals with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.
- Autism is diagnosed four times more often in boys than girls. Its prevalence is not affected by race, region, or socio-economic status.
- Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved and, in some cases, completely overcome.

### Autism Facts & Stats

- Autism now affects 1 in 59 children; over half are classified as having an intellectual disability or borderline intellectual disability.
- Boys are four times more likely to have autism than girls.
- About 40% of children with autism do not speak. About 25%–30% of children with autism have some words at 12 to 18 months of age and then lose them. Others might speak, but not until later in childhood.
- Autism greatly varies from person to person. (no two people with autism are alike)
- The rate of autism has steadily grown over the last twenty years.
- Children with autism do progress – early intervention is the key.



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