Could My Child Have Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Facts

- ASD is the fastest growing disability
- 1 child in 150 has ASD
- 4 out of 5 people with ASD are boys
- There are no racial, ethnic or social boundaries
- Symptoms of ASD are treatable
- ASD affects the way in which people understand and react to the world around them
- ASD is often diagnosed before the age of three
- ASD is not always associated with lower IQ
- It is not your fault and you are not alone

Early Intervention Helps

There are no cures for Autism Spectrum Disorders, but early diagnosis and interventions are a child’s best hope for reaching his or her full potential.

Regional Offices

Albany Regional Office
(660) 726-5246

Central Missouri Regional Office
(573) 882-9835

Hannibal Regional Office
(573) 248-2400

Joplin Regional Office
(417) 629-3020

Kansas City Regional Office
(816) 889-3400

Kirksville Regional Office
(660) 785-2500

Poplar Bluff Regional Office
(573) 840-9300

Rolla Regional Office
(573) 368-2200

Sikeston Regional Office
(573) 472-5300

Springfield Regional Office
(417) 895-7400

St. Louis Regional Office (St. Louis County)
(314) 340-6500

St. Louis Regional Office (St. Louis City, St. Charles/Jefferson County)
(314) 244-8800

Developed by the Central Missouri Rapid Response Initiative

Rapid Response is a cooperative effort among state and local agencies with a goal of screening children for Autism Spectrum Disorders and providing early interventions.

Funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities
Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Autism has a wide range of symptoms, but typically includes difficulties with:

Communication
- Poor or unusual eye contact
- Little to no babbling, pointing, gesturing or words to communicate
- Often does not respond when called by name or when spoken to
- Repeats or echos words or phrases in place of normal language
- Loses skills (e.g. the child stops saying words used in the past)

Social Skills
- Little interest in other children
- Does not look at what others are interested in
- Does not show objects of interest to others
- Lack of interest in social games or play with others

Behavior
- Has unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
- Unusual or unrealistic fears
- Avoids being touched
- Restricted or limited interests—prefers same toys, clothing or activity
- Unusual use of objects
- Limited pretend or imaginative play
- Repeats action over and over again (e.g. hand flapping, rocking, spinning objects, etc.)
- Difficulty with change in routine

Where to Get Help

If you notice several of these signs on a consistent basis over time, please contact:

For Screening
- Pediatrician
- Primary care doctor
- Your local school district
- Parents As Teachers
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Online at www.firstsigns.org

For Diagnosis
- Developmental pediatrician
- Clinical child psychologist
- Neurologist
- Health care assessment team

Important Questions to Ask
- How do I get my child evaluated?
- What treatments are available?
- What specialist should I see for additional supports?
- How do I pay for these services?
- What will my school district do to help?
- What can I do at home to help my child?

For Help and Guidance

Below are numbers you can call to be linked to your local resources.

Children Birth to 3 years

First Steps, 1-866-583-2392, This number will connect you with the local First Steps Office. www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/

Department of Mental Health Division of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities
1-800-207-9329, www.dmh.mo.gov
Please see back panel for local numbers

Children 3 years and older

Department of Mental Health Division of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities
1-800-207-9329, www.dmh.mo.gov
Please see back panel for local numbers

Your Local School District
Parents As Teachers (Birth-5)
Early Childhood Special Education (3-5)

Additional Information and Resources
- Interactive Autism Network (IAN)
  www.ianproject.org
- Missouri Network of Care website (under Developmental Disabilities-Missouri),
  www.networkofcare.org