



## What is Autism?

- 3rd most common developmental disability in the U.S.
- Affects communication, social interaction, play and leisure skills, and behavior
- Affects 1 in 110 nationwide
- Autism is a spectrum disorder - Individuals have varied issues and require differing levels of assistance
- Affects the brain's functioning across all developmental areas
- Affects individuals throughout the lifespan
- The exact cause is unknown

Warning Signs for Autism: If you notice these signs, seek professional assessment.

- Children may prefer to play alone
- Children may engage in repetitive patterns during play
- Lack of spoken language
- For children who develop language, challenges with conversations
- Lack of response to name
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of shared interest with adults or peers
- Resistance to change, especially change in routines
- Repetitive behaviors such as hand flapping, rocking, spinning
- Inappropriate attachment to objects

## Interventions and Treatment

- Early, intensive intervention is recommended for children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Early intervention is defined as intervention before the age of four, and intensive is defined as 20-30 hours per week
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is recommended by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as a treatment method for autism spectrum
- Complimentary therapies include Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy
- Parent involvement is critical for success

For more information on Autism and effective interventions, please visit our website

For a free assessment: For 0-2 yrs old, contact Help Me Grow 216-736-4300. For 3 and above, contact your local school district.