



#### 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

## Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Facts

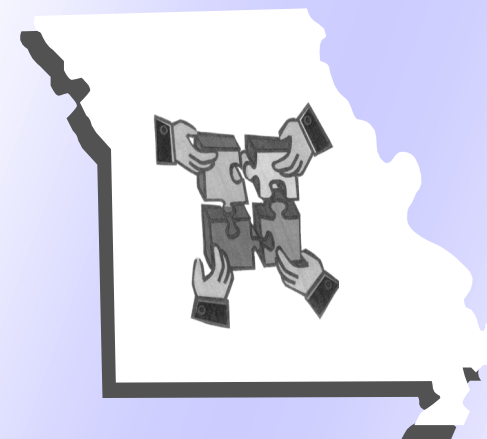
- ASD is the fastest growing disability
- 1 child in 150 has ASD
- 4 out of 5 people with ASD are boys
- There are no racial, ethnic or social boundaries
- Symptoms of ASD are treatable
- ASD affects the way in which people understand and react to the world around them
- ASD is often diagnosed before 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 today for Autism Spectrum Disorders, but early diagnosis and interventions are a child's best hope for reaching his or her full potential.

Pb. 12/4/08

## Could My Child Have Autism?



### 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 Developmental Disabilities

**Electronic Access to Autism Brochures:**  
[www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd/progs/autism/autism.htm](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd/progs/autism/autism.htm)

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# 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
- Inconsistent response to name or to people talking
- Repetition of or echoing words or phrases in place of normal language
- Loss of skills they once possessed (e.g. no longer saying words once used)

## Social Skills

- Not knowing how to play with or show an interest in other children
- Lack of shared attention, sharing toys or taking turns

## Behavior

- Unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
  - Little or no fear of common dangers
  - Unusual or unrealistic fears
  - Craving physical contact or avoiding being touched
  - Restricted or limited interests; preferring same toys, clothing or activity
  - Unusual object use; limited pretend or imaginative play
  - Repeating action over and over again (e.g. hand flapping, rocking, spinning objects, etc.)
  - Difficulty changing routine
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# 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](http://www.firstsigns.org)

## For Diagnosis

- Developmental pediatrician
  - Clinical child psychologist
  - Neurologist
  - Health care assessment team
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# 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?
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# 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/](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/)

Department of Mental Health

Division of Developmental Disabilities

1-800-207-9329, [www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov)

Please see back panel for local numbers

## Children 3 years and older

Department of Mental Health

Division of Developmental Disabilities

1-800-207-9329, [www.dmh.mo.gov](http://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)

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## Additional Information and Resources

- Interactive Autism Network (IAN)  
[www.ianproject.org](http://www.ianproject.org)
  - Missouri Network of Care website (under Developmental Disabilities-Missouri),  
[www.networkofcare.org](http://www.networkofcare.org)
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