

## FACTS FOR FAMILIES.....ABOUT AUTISM

Understanding some common myths may be helpful in understanding autism and sorting through the facts and myths we often hear in the media.

### FACTS:

- Autism is a syndrome that affects children in **three areas**: language, socialization, and sensory integration. ***Each child is different.***
- There is **no known cause or cure** for Autism. Special therapies can help make a big difference in a child's development and future.
- **The sooner a child gets good therapies the better that child's future will be.**

If you are worried about your child's development or behavior, it is better to have an evaluation and get help than to wait and see.

MYTH	FACT
Boys speak later than girls do. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	Boys' language is different from girls but they should <b>communicate well by the age of 2.</b>
Autism means my child has Mental Retardation. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	Autism is <b>not the same</b> as Mental Retardation or what is now called Intellectual Disability.
My child does not have Autism because he can read, talk and work the computer. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	Some children with Autism have many skills but <b>still need therapies</b> to make sure they have successful relationships and behavior, as they grow older.
He or she is just a bad or spoiled child. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	Children with Autism <b>are frequently misdiagnosed</b> as having behavior problems. They may have problematic behaviors because they have Autism and are not getting help.
We do not speak English in our home, so it will take my child longer to learn to speak and I should wait. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	By the <b>age of 2</b> , a child should be speaking in <b>at least one language</b> .
My child was fine at birth. <b>This is both TRUE and FALSE:</b> There are different times in childhood that Autism can be identified. It varies among children.	
He or she just has hyperactivity or ADHD. This is <b>FALSE</b> .	Many children with Autism appear to have difficulty focusing and paying attention. However, they also have problems with social skills, repetitive behaviors and communicating effectively. Children with ADHD do not have these other differences.
Something caused my child to have Autism. <b>This is FALSE.</b>	There are hundreds of myths about what might cause Autism. Although there is a lot of research, there is still no scientifically proven cause.
There is a blood or genetic test for Autism. <b>This is FALSE.</b>	There is no blood or genetic test for autism.

## RESOURCES TO GET THE FACTS!

- ❖ **Autism Society of America/Philadelphia** [www.asaphilly.org](http://www.asaphilly.org)  
Information and support warmline: **610-358-5256**. Info in **SPANISH** also!
- ❖ **ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training)** [www.paautism.org](http://www.paautism.org)  
Region Eastern Collaborative Autism Resource Specialist: **877-231-4244**. **(SPANISH TOO!)**
- ❖ **Philadelphia Autism Project** <http://www.phillyautismproject.org/resourcemap>.  
Map of local support groups for Autism in Philly.
- ❖ **Autism Speaks** [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) 1888-AUTISM2; **Autism Response Hotline: 888-288-4762**.
- ❖ **Association for the Science of Autism Treatment** [www.asaonline.org](http://www.asaonline.org)  
Describes **autism treatment methods** and the research and evidence behind them. Great **vaccination** info!
- ❖ **Philly Autism Group** Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/phillyautism/>
- ❖ **SPIN-PACE Special People in the Northeast** <https://spininc.org/autism-services/>  
*Philadelphia Autism Centers of Excellence*. Multi services center in Northeast Philadelphia providing a range of free and Medical Assistance-funded services and supports for the entire family. Free Family Support groups and trainings open to everyone.
  - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/PaceCaregiverConnection/> **216-612-7639 (SPANISH AVAILABLE)**
- ❖ **NET-PACE NorthEast Treatment Centers** <http://netcenters.org/>  
*Philadelphia Autism Centers of Excellence*. Multi services center in *Center City* providing a range of free and Medical Assistance -funded services and supports for the entire family. **Free** Family Support groups and trainings open to everyone.
  - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/PACENETCenters/> **877-638-4581 (SPANISH AVAILABLE)**
- ❖ **Child Guidance Resource Center (CGRC)** <https://cgrc.org/services/>  
*Philadelphia Autism Center of Excellence*. Multi service center in Southwest Philly providing a range of evidence based supports and services for families with a child with Autism. **Free** Family Support groups monthly open to everyone. **267-713-4113 (SPANISH AVAILABLE)**.
  - **Flyers & Brochures:** <https://cgrc.org/brochures-and-flyers/>
- ❖ **Community Autism Network (CAN)** <https://www.cancenter.org/> **215-834-8998**  
A learning and social environment to build awareness in the community, promote independence, provide social opportunities and relief for families and individuals with Autism.
  - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Community-Autism-Network-1859533447601526/>
- ❖ **Small World Special Needs** <https://smallworldspecialneeds.org/>  
Videos, tip sheets, in 7 different languages as well as help for visual supports.
- ❖ **Teaching Pyramid:** <https://cainclusion.org/teachingpyramid/materials-family.html>

For questions and additional information, please, contact **Elwyn SEEDS:** Karen Krivit, Autism Consultant, [krivitk@elwyn.org](mailto:krivitk@elwyn.org) 215-460-7725 or Mimi Wong at **Philadelphia Autism Project** [phillyap@drexel.edu](mailto:phillyap@drexel.edu), 215-571-3209.