

# From Diagnosis to Treatment

*A Beginners Guide to  
Autism Spectrum Disorders*

[www.icare4autism.org](http://www.icare4autism.org)

# What is Autism?

*Autism is the most common condition in a group of development disorders called Autism Spectrum Disorders*



According to autism researchers in England, 2010, very premature babies are more likely to have autism.

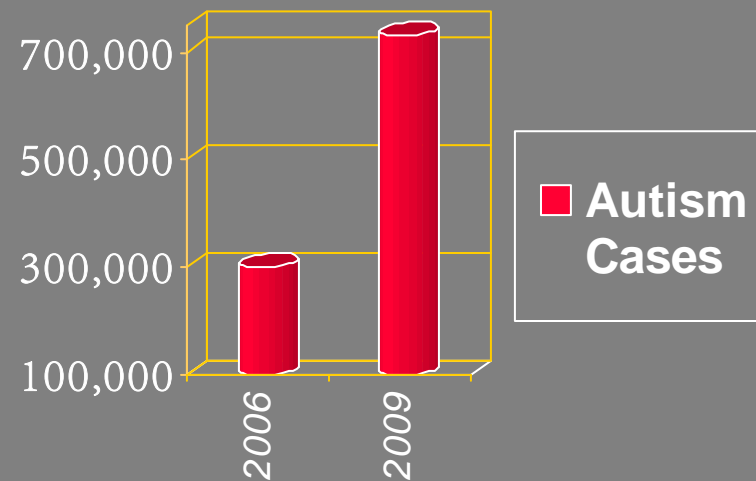
# Autism Spectrum Disorders

- **Autism**, also known as “*Classic Autism*”
  - Ranges from Low to High Functioning
- **Pervasive Developmental Disorder**
  - Not Otherwise Specified ASD
- **Aspergers Syndrome**
  - Highest Functioning ASD

# Autism Rates Soar

- *According to the Centers for Disease Control, we can estimate that about **730,000** individuals, between the ages of 0 to 21, have an ASD.*

Autism rates in the United States



Statistical Sources:

Washington Post, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

# Autism Expert: Opinion



*“The environment  
on genetics is a  
big factor.”*

Dr. Eric Hollander

ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN

The International Center for  
Autism Research & Education

# Racial Disparities in Autism

*“Clinicians are more likely to make a diagnosis of **intellectual delay** than of Autism Spectrum Disorder’s for **African-American** and **Hispanic** children.”*



**Key brain stimulation occurs in children up to age 7-years of age**

# Get the Proper Diagnosis

## Get a creditable test

Take your child to your **local IBA center**, for proper diagnosis. This assessment will yield the current level of **cognitive** and **adaptive functioning**.

*If you do not have an IBA center, seek out community-based professionals, who will accurately advise you, such as an properly trained **pediatrician***

# Autism Treatment Options



Applied  
Behavior  
Analysis  
(ABA)

Pivotal  
Response  
Treatment  
(PRT)

Relationship  
Development  
Intervention  
(RDI)

TEACCH

Speech  
Therapy

# Treatment that Fits

Many rural areas may only have **small groups** and/or a small autism school, while urban areas have a mix and **state-of-the-art autism centers**.

Remember, when appropriate, **some schools offer a residency option** for accepted children.



*Some **autism centers** offer special activities, such as **Yoga** classes, especially formatted for children with autism.*

# Autism Inspiration



Conner Zero, 7, sits in front of classmates at Friends' School in St. Matthews

Individuals with autism are known for a *lack of empathy*. Yet, in Feb. 2010, **Conner Zero** inspired his classmates to raise money for a children's hospital in **Port Au Prince, Haiti**.

His mother *told reporters*, in **Kentucky**, that the **7-year-old** was inspired out of *pity* for the children who had **lost their favorite toys** during the earthquake.

After viewing a news report on television he handed his parents **two 5-dollar bills** and declared that he **wanted to help** kids in Haiti.

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