

What do we know about Autism Spectrum Disorders?

- Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities defined by significant delays in social interaction and communication.
- Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Studies show that ASD can be diagnosed as early as 18 months.
- The prevalence rate in children is about 1 in 36.
- The diagnosis of autism has increased more than tenfold in the last decade.

What is the Spectrum?

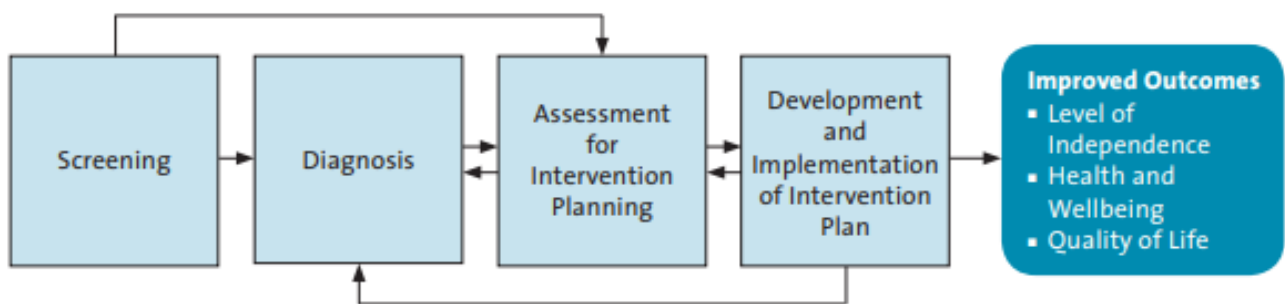
ASD manifestations can and often do look different among individuals diagnosed. Those on the spectrum—a range between two extremes—have distinct sets of strengths and weaknesses. How individuals with ASD think, learn, and interact with others can range from highly-skilled to severely impaired. The term “spectrum” in ASD refers to both the wide range of symptoms and the severity of those symptoms.



What is the path to improved outcomes?

PATHWAY TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES

FIGURE 1.1



Once a diagnosis is given, the person with ASD, their caregiver(s), and intervention team, work together to conduct an assessment, develop an intervention plan, and monitor progress. Everyone working together can lead to increased independence and a general improved quality of life.

Click [here](#) to learn more about ASD in Missouri.

Want to get more involved? Sign up for the Regional Parent Advisory Council by clicking [here](#), or sign up for the Advisory Committee by clicking [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a list of Autism centers in Missouri.

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