

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

You have just been told by your doctor that your child has or may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

...it feels like your whole world has come to an end.

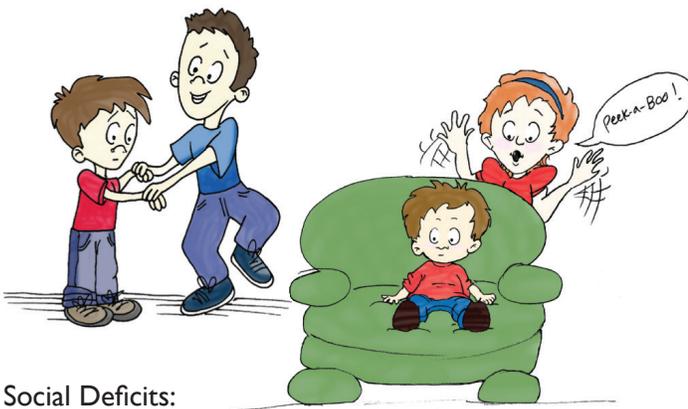
...all the dreams and hopes you have for your child seem shattered.

This is exactly how many parents feel. It is a natural reaction to such devastating news.

BUT you are NOT alone. Your physician wants to help.

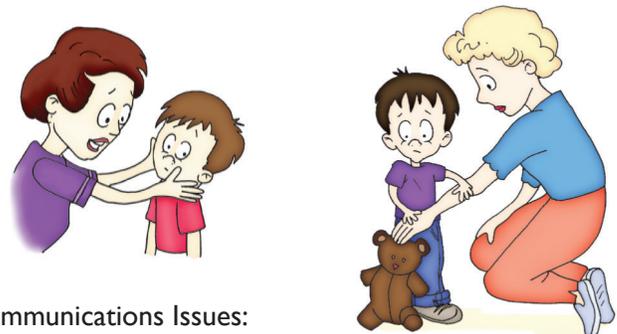
At one time autism was considered rare and hopeless, but this is no longer true. Many children with autism, especially with early intervention, make considerable improvements and may even mainstream into regular classrooms.

Your physician will provide you with resources and referrals that can profoundly affect your child's outcome for the better.



Social Deficits:

May show no interest in Peek-a-boo or other interactive games.



Communications Issues:

May not communicate typically by verbalizing or pointing; instead they may "hand-lead" to the desired object.
May have decreased eye-contact.



Bizarre / Repetitive Behaviors:

Such as staring at ceiling fans for hours, spinning, rocking, flapping and flicking their fingers.



Sensory Issues:

May have difficulty with clothing, noise, music, lights, smells, bathing, and any new situation.



Self-Injurious Behaviors:

May have biting, head-banging, ripping at skin and hair.



Gastro-Intestinal Problems:

Some children may have Gastro-Intestinal Problems such as diarrhea, constipation, bloody stool, undigested food in stool, frequent vomiting, and food sensitivities.

Motor Issues:

May be unable to pick up small objects, appear clumsy, have balance and coordination difficulties.



Autism is a "catch-all" word that is applied to a group of symptoms, some of which are shown above. These occur in varying degrees depending on the individual child.

Source: Help Autism Now, at www.helpautismnow.com