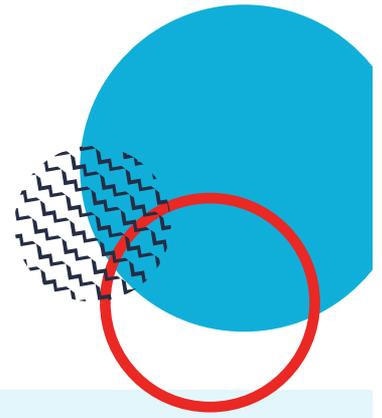


Common Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder

The autistic experience varies greatly across individuals. This information is meant to be generalized to raise awareness and provide information. These experiences may not apply to everyone.



Social Communication

- Differences in understanding and using verbal and nonverbal communication
- Differences in initiating and maintaining conversations
- Differences in the use of gestures and facial expressions



Repetitive Behaviors and Interests

- Engaging in repetitive movements or actions (e.g., hand-flapping, rocking back and forth)
- Insistence on sameness and routines and a general discomfort with change
- Intense focus on specific interests or topics



Sensory Processing Differences

- Heightened or lowered sensitivity to things like lights, sounds, flavors, textures, fabrics and other external stimuli
- May be overwhelmed by crowded environments
- May seek sensory stimulation by spinning in circles or listening to loud music



Information Processing

- May need increased processing time or may process information differently
- Literal interpretation of language may result in difficulty grasping sarcasm or humor
- Strong preference for visual, hands-on or concrete learning methods

Why Understanding Matters

Early recognition and understanding of these characteristics can lead to timely support and increased access to community.

Embracing neurodiversity promotes inclusivity and creates supportive environments for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

For More Information

Consult with healthcare providers and specialists to discuss which interventions may be appropriate for your child.



Pediatric Collaborative

the Chickasaw Nation

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