

Definitions of Autism

	(Medical) DSM-IV (1994)	(Medical) DSM-IV (1994)	(Parent) ASA (1990)	(Educational) MO DESE (2004)	(Educational) IDEA (1997)
Name of Disorder	Autistic Disorder	Asperger's Disorder	Autism	Autism (2004)	Autism
Prevalence	1/150	Information on the prevalence of Asperger's disorder is limited, but it appears to be more common in males.	1/250	Not specified	Not specified
Onset	During infancy or childhood prior to Age 3 years	Somewhat later than Autistic disorder. Motor Delays or motor clumsiness may be noted in the preschool period. Difficulties in social interaction may become more apparent in the context of school. This disorder apparently follows a continuous course and, in the vast majority of cases, the duration is lifelong.	First three years of life	During infancy or childhood	Generally evident before age 3
Social	Qualitative impairment in reciprocal social interaction	Qualitative impairment in reciprocal social interaction	Abnormal ways of relating to people, events, and objects	Disturbance of capacity to relate appropriately to people, events, and objects	Significantly effects social interaction
Language	Qualitative impairment in verbal and nonverbal communication and in imaginative activity	No clinical significant general delay in language (e.g. , single words used by age 2 years, communicative phrases used by age 3 years)	Speech and language are absent or delayed, specific thinking capabilities may be present	Disturbance of speech, language, cognitive, and nonverbal communication	Significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication
Other	Markedly restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities	Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities. no clinically significant delay in cognitive development or in the development of age-appropriate self-help skills, adaptive behavior (other than in social interaction and curiosity about the environment in childhood)	Abnormal response to sensations Disturbance in the rate of appearance of physical, social, and language skills	Disturbance of response to sensory stimuli Disturbance of developmental rates and sequences	Unusual responses to sensory experiences (listed as a characteristic) Adversely affects educational performance Rules out "serious emotional disturbance"

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Related Disorder(s)	<p>Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (Including Atypical Autism): this category should be used when there is a severe and pervasive impairment in the development of reciprocal social interaction or verbal and nonverbal communication skill, or when stereotyped behavior, interests, and activities are present, but the criteria are not met for a special Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizotypal Personality Disorder, or Avoidant Personality Disorder. For example, this category includes "atypical autism" – presentations that do not meet the criteria for autistic disorder because of late age at onset, atypical symptomatology, or subthreshold symptomatology, or all of these.</p>	<p>Criteria are not met for another specific PDD or Schizophrenia.</p>			