

# WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a disorder that affects how people communicate, learn and behave. Signs of autism usually start around 2 years old. Autism is called a “spectrum” disorder because autism comes in many different shapes and sizes and looks different for each person.

## FACTS

Autism is caused by a mix of genetic and environmental factors

Some early signs of ASD are poor eye contact and repetitive movements, like hand flapping

Many people with autism have specific and intense interests

Difficulties with social skills and communication is a key part of ASD

People with ASD often like routine and get upset with change

People with autism can be more sensitive to senses like sound, touch & taste

## MYTHS

Autism is caused by vaccines and bad parenting

Most people with ASD have severe intellectual disabilities

People with autism don't have feelings or feel love

Only boys get autism, not girls

ASD can only be diagnosed as a child

Everyone's experience with autism is similar



Sources:  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/autism/what-is-autism-spectrum-disorder>  
<https://www.autism.org.sg/living-with-autism/myths-and-facts-of-autism>  
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