

What is Autism?	<p>Autism is a life-long, nonprogressive developmental disability. Autism results from non-specified impairments to normal brain development and may have multiple and overlapping causes. Autism is a disability characterized by impairments in social interaction, communication, and the capacity for imaginative and symbolic thinking resulting in exaggerated and stereotyped interests, behaviors, and activities. It is presumed to be present from birth and is always apparent before the age of three.</p> <p>(http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/guide/autism.pdf)</p>
Characteristics of Autism	<p>People with autism may exhibit some of the following traits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insistence on sameness; resistance to change ▪ Difficulty in expressing needs, using gestures or pointing instead of words ▪ Repeating words or phrases in place of normal, responsive language ▪ Preference to being alone; aloof manner ▪ Difficulty in mixing with others ▪ Not wanting to cuddle or be cuddled ▪ Little or no eye contact ▪ Sustained odd play ▪ Obsessive attachment to objects ▪ Apparent over-sensitivity or under-sensitivity to pain ▪ Noticeable physical over-activity or extreme under-activity ▪ Uneven gross/fine motor skills ▪ Non responsive to verbal cues; acts as if deaf, although hearing tests in normal range <p>(http://www.autism-society.org)</p>
Quick Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism ▪ 1 in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum ▪ 67 children are diagnosed a day with autism ▪ Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. ▪ Early intervention can lead to improvement in many areas of development <p>(http://www.autismspeaks.org)</p>
References	<p>Autism Society of America http://www.autism-society.org (Retrieved January 23, 2008)</p> <p>Autism Speaks http://www.autismspeaks.org/whatisit/facts.php (Retrieved January 17, 2008)</p> <p>Guidelines: Identifying, Serving and Education Children and Youth with Autism http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/guide/autism.pdf (Retrieved January 17, 2008)</p>