

ASM MEMBERSHIP

Individual/Family Member	\$25.00
Student	\$25.00
Professional	\$150.00
Agency/Organization	\$200.00
	\$1,500.00
	\$ _____
Lifetime	Total:
Donation	\$ _____

The Autism Society of Maine provides education and resources to support the valued lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.



Name _____

Organization _____

Address *Please circle Home or Work* _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Information about the individual on the Autism spectrum

Name _____

Male/Female _____ Date of Birth _____ Diagnosis _____

Check which best describes you:

Individual with ASD Parent Family Professional

- Check
- Visa
- Mastercard
- Purchase Order

Membership Includes:
 Scholarships for Conferences
 Access to ASM Family Retreat
 and Summer Camp

_____-_____-_____-_____
 CREDIT CARD NUMBER

_____-_____-_____-_____
 EXP. DATE CVV

 SIGNATURE

The Autism Society of Maine is an official affiliate of the national Autism Society.

Autism Society of Maine
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 Winthrop, ME 04364
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E-mail: library@asmonline.org
www.asmonline.org
 Revised 7/22



Autism Spectrum Disorder

Membership forms can be mailed or faxed. You can also sign up online at www.asmonline.org

National Autism Society
www.autism-society.org

www.asmonline.org
 1-800-273-5200

WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?

- Developmental disability that appears before age 7 years
- Result of a neurological disorder that affects the brain
- Occurs in 1 out of 44 births in the United States
- 4 times more prevalent in boys than girls
- Crosses all racial, ethnic and social boundaries
- Affects ability to communicate, reason and interact with others
- Impacts individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity (mild, moderate, severe)
- Often found with other disabilities

WHAT CAUSES AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?

- No single cause
- Biological and neurological differences in the brain
- Research continues focused on genetic links in family patterns and ASD
- Research suggests environmental factors - influences on genetics are not yet clear
- Not caused by poor parenting and individuals do not choose to have autism

HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

- No medical test for autism
- According to the DSM-5 criteria for ASD
- Evaluations to be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team that may include: neurologist, psychologist, developmental pediatrician, speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, education consultant or other professional (i.e. LCSW, LCPC) knowledgeable about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Rule out any physical reason for the behaviors being observed

Many worry about the impact to funding for services. We do not know how/if social policy will change. It will be important for your legislative representatives - state and federal, to know your concerns. So, please contact them!

**NOT CAUSED BY POOR PARENTING!
INDIVIDUALS DO NOT CHOOSE TO HAVE ASD!**

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across settings, as shown by:

1. Deficits in social-skills and emotional reciprocity
2. Deficits in non-verbal communication (i.e. body language, eye contact);
3. Deficits in developing, maintaining and understanding relationships (i.e. absence of interest in peers, difficulty in sharing imaginary play) AND

Restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities as shown by:

1. Repetitive speech and/or behaviors, or use of objects (such as repeating words, using objects the same way over and over, spinning, flapping);
2. Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, need to take same route to destinations, eat same foods);
3. Highly restricted fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus (i.e. strong focus on unusual objects, unusual interests);
4. Hyper- or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g., apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement).

- Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period (i.e. by age 7 years)
- Can be with or without an intellectual disability
- Can be with or without a language impairment

• Severity Levels:

- Level 3-“Requiring very substantial support”
- Level 2-“Requiring substantial support”
- Level 1-“Requiring Support”

Individuals who have deficits in social communication, but whose symptoms do not otherwise meet criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder should be evaluated for Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder.

IS THERE A CURE?

- No known cure
- Many ways to understand the disorder and help people cope with the symptoms
- Some symptoms may lessen as the individual ages or disappear altogether
- With appropriate intervention many behaviors associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) can be positively supported and strengths maximized
- Majority of individuals with ASD will continue to exhibit some of the symptoms throughout their lives



WHAT ARE THE MOST RECOGNIZED INTERVENTIONS?

- Early intervention services
- Highly structured individualized special education program tailored to the individual's needs
- Positive reinforcement strategies
- Training and support to caregivers
- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Applied behavior analysis
- Vocational training supports
- Living supports: varies based on need from own apartment to residential care
- Biomedical (e.g. diet, supplementation)