

Autism Society of Maine

Membership Form

| | Price | Total |
|--|--------|-------|
| ASM Membership | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Member with ASD | 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership | 20.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation | | |
| ASA Membership | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Family member | 40.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Individual | 30.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASA Membership Professional | 100.00 | |
| | Total: | _____ |

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership includes:

- ASM lending library
- Scholarships for conferences
- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual Family Retreat Weekend
- Autism awareness packets

Method of Payment

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Purchase Order # _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Information about the individual on the Autism Spectrum

Name _____

Male/Female _____ Date of Birth _____ Diagnosis _____

Which best describes you:

- Individual on the Autism Spectrum
- Parent/Family Member
- Professional

72 B Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04364

Phone: 1-800-273-5200
Fax: 207-377-9434
Email: asm@asmonline.org

Mission Statement

The Autism Society of Maine is a non-profit organization that serves individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. The Society provides current information in support of informed choice of treatments and services.

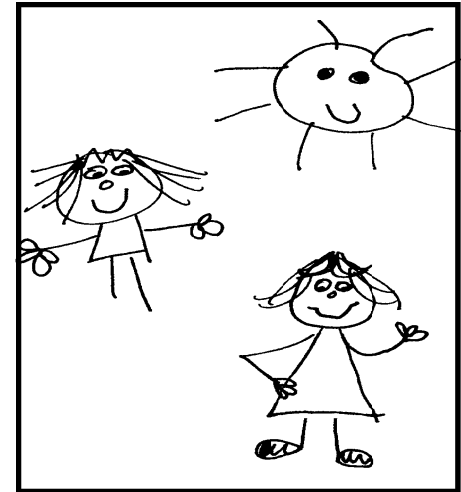


AUTISM SOCIETY OF MAINE

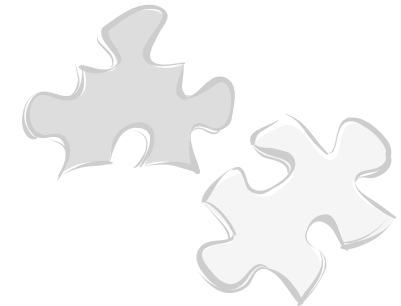
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www.asmonline.org

Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org
Revised 01/08

Autism Society of Maine



KIDS
BROCHURE



1-800-273-5200



What is autism?

Autism is a developmental disability. That means that children are born with autism and will have it all of their lives. But they can learn and grow up to have jobs just like you.

Children who have autism develop skills differently than most kids. They may also have a different way of seeing, hearing, or feeling things. Sounds that you think are loud may actually be felt as pain, so a person with autism may cover their ears. Bright lights may hurt their eyes, so they turn the lights off, cover their eyes, or try to get away from the light. Things that you don't think hurt may be painful to children who have autism, or they may not feel any pain at all when they fall down or hurt themselves.

Children who have autism don't like change. They like to do the same things over and over, and have a hard time stopping what they are doing when their parents or teachers ask them to. They also like to do things the same way every time, so when something is different they may get very upset.

Some children who have autism cannot speak so they may learn to use sign language, a computer, or a book with pictures in it to tell people what they want or how they feel. Other children may speak but have difficulty

saying what they want to say. And some children who have autism will talk just like you do.

How many people have autism?

In the United States about 1.7 million people have autism. But that is just in America. There are people who have autism all over the world. More boys than girls have autism. They can be rich or poor, any color or race, and can live in the city or in the country.

What are people who have autism like?

Children who have autism may act differently. They may seem like they are not paying attention, or act as if they can't see or hear other people. They may want to spend most of their time alone or play with the same toy for a very long time. They may spin objects, make unusual noises, or pick things up and smell them. Some children who have autism may rock their bodies back and forth, spin in circles, or flick their fingers and do other things which seem different.

Children who have autism may have difficulty communicating. You may hear a person who has autism repeat words or phrases that someone else has said. They often don't ask for what they want or need, or talk about their feelings.

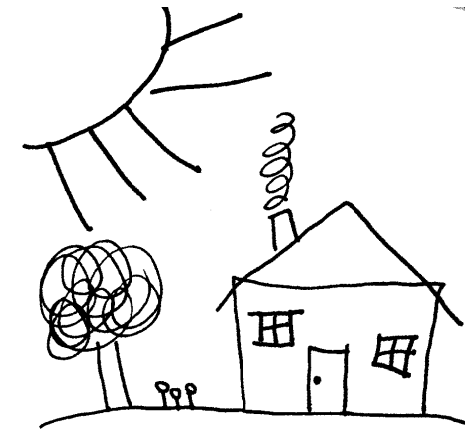
It's not easy for children who have autism to make friends because they don't know how to play and talk like other children do. Sometimes they get too close, talk too much, and laugh at things that other kids don't think are funny. Even though children who have autism act and talk differently, it doesn't mean they don't want to have friends. Everybody is different. That's what makes being friends with other kids more fun. There's a lot you can learn from each other.

Can children with autism go to school?

Yes, there may be boys or girls who have autism at your school, or even in your classroom. Children who have autism and other disabilities have to go to school to learn math and reading just like you do. They may be in a classroom like yours all day long with a special helper, or they may only come into your class for part of the day. Some children spend all day in a class set up especially for them.

Can autism be cured?

Nobody knows for sure what causes autism, so we can't make it go away. Children who have autism can be helped to grow up like other kids. They may not go to college or buy their own house, but they can get a job and learn to make friends and enjoy family life. Some people with autism are very smart and do go to college. People with autism can get married and have children just like you. People with autism can grow up to be computer operators, artists, or work at a bank or in the shopping mall.



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