

Mild Autism

Some Children have Mild Symptoms of Autism Making it
Difficult to Diagnose



***AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS MAY NOT BE GREAT NEWS
BUT IT MAY BE THE START OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL***

Individuals with autism may have different challenges as well as skills. Children with autism spectrum disorder have difficulty in areas of communication, social interaction, and daily living skills. However simple these concepts may seem, they are not.

For the untrained individual communication means the ability to say words and social interaction means the ability to seek and enjoy socialization. On the other hand, for the knowledgeable autism professional being able to say words does not constitute communication and a child with poor social interaction skills may be very friendly and enjoys social interactions.

Many parents have tried desperately for years to get a proper diagnosis for their child. These families keep searching for answers because they see the signs. They live with the child and they feel the struggles. They see their child's condition worsens as their child becomes older and behaviors become habits. Most importantly, they understand that early intervention can make a big difference.

Unfortunately, for many of these families a diagnosis will never be made. This is mainly because medical and mental health professionals have beliefs about autism that are inaccurate. A proper diagnosis takes team work between parents and professionals. It also takes professionals who are knowledgeable and truly understand how autism may be manifested in different areas of one's life.

Common Myths that Professionals have about Autism

- Children with autism can't speak
- Children with autism have behavioral problems
- Children with autism have an intellectual disability
- Children with autism don't like social interaction
- Children with mild autism will outgrow these symptoms
- If a child has a mild form of autism it is not important for him to receive a diagnosis and early intervention

Signs of Mild Autism

Children with mild autism may present with:

Odd facial expressions	Poor articulation
Using the incorrect pronouns	Feeding challenges
Monotone speech	Poor motor skills
Sensory challenges	Poor posture
Verbalizing inner thoughts	Floppy body tone
Issues recognizing voice tones	Advance language
Obsession with certain topics	Unaware of danger
Challenges in reading body language	Speech delay/deficit



Many professionals, although well-meaning, do not have the knowledge and experience to recognize the subtle behaviors of children with mild autism.

April Showers Brings May Flowers

Written by Beverly Dabrio, MA, BCBA