About Autism

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that can affect how a person communicates, interacts with others, learns, and experiences the world around them.

Autism is described as a spectrum because every autistic person is different. Each person has their own combination of strengths, abilities, preferences, and support needs.

A helpful reminder

No single behavior or characteristic can confirm autism. A comprehensive evaluation considers the whole child.

Connect With Enspire

Educational Inquiries

(215) 845-5869

Clinical Inquiries

(215) 948-3171

Website

www.enspirecg.com

Three convenient locations

Philadelphia • Flourtown • Southampton

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What Is Autism?

A parent & caregiver guide



Understanding your child starts with understanding the whole picture.

A clear, supportive introduction to autism, common characteristics, evaluation, and next steps for families.

EDUCATION • EVALUATION • SUPPORT

What Might Autism Look Like?

Signs can vary with age and development. Parents and caregivers may notice differences in areas such as:

- **Communication & language**
- **Social interaction**
- **Play & interests**
- **Routines & transitions**
- **Sensory experiences**
- **Repetitive movements or behaviors**

Important

Having one or more of these characteristics does not necessarily mean a child has autism. A comprehensive evaluation can help determine whether autism or another explanation better accounts for their needs.



Common Characteristics

- Difficulty starting or maintaining conversations
- Communicating differently than expected for age
- Difficulty understanding social cues
- Strong preference for routines or predictability
- Highly focused interests
- Repeated words, movements, or behaviors
- Greater or lower sensitivity to sounds, lights, textures, tastes, or touch
- Playing or interacting differently from peers

No two autistic children are exactly alike.

When Should I Consider an Evaluation?

Consider speaking with a qualified professional if you have ongoing concerns about your child's communication, social interactions, behavior, learning, or development.

An evaluation may include:

- Parent/caregiver input
- Teacher or caregiver input
- Direct observation
- Standardized assessment tools

What Can Parents Do?

- Write down behaviors or developmental differences you notice.
- Ask teachers or caregivers what they observe.
- Discuss concerns with your child's healthcare provider.
- Consider requesting a developmental, psychological, or autism evaluation.
- Keep copies of reports and important records.

How Enspire Can Help

Enspire provides comprehensive psychological and autism evaluations to help families understand developmental, behavioral, emotional, and learning needs.

Questions? Call (215) 948-3171