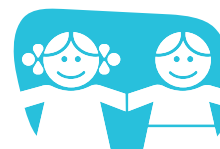


Autism Center

Resource Kit



**Manning Family
Children's**
LCMC Health

General information



What is autism spectrum disorder in children?

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that occurs when genetic and environmental factors come together to change brain development.
- Symptoms of ASD can appear in the first few years of life.

What can ASD look like in children?

- Problems communicating and interacting with others, playing, and making and keeping friends.
- Repeating words or phrases.
- Unusual body movements like rocking or flapping hands.
- Overly strong interests in topics, characters, or certain objects.
- Being very sensitive to surroundings, having rituals, and needing routines.

How is ASD diagnosed in a child?

- A licensed psychologist, neurologist, or behavioral pediatrician will usually do several tests with the caregiver and child together and do a thorough interview with a caregiver
- ASD is diagnosed when the child demonstrates enough symptoms in two big areas: difficulties with social communication and specific behavior challenges and differences.
- No single medical test can diagnose ASD.
- Follow up tests such as genetic tests, or imaging tests such as MRIs may help provide information about other areas of functioning or concern.
- Additional testing can be done for other disorders that children with ASD are more likely to have such as developmental delay, anxiety, depression, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).



How is ASD treated in a child?

- Each child with ASD needs their own special treatment program, but there are various methods.
- Therapy based in applied behavior analysis (ABA) is associated with the best outcomes for children with ASD. ABA teaches language, social skills, and thinking (cognitive) skills and helps decrease challenging behaviors that may interfere with the child's life.
- Caregiver consultation and training can be useful for improving behavior in daily life.
- Speech therapy or occupational therapy may be appropriate as speech delays and fine motor difficulties are common in children with ASD.
- Special education programs focus on skills, speech, language, self-care, and job skills.
- While there is no medication for ASD, medication may be helpful for mental health needs such as anxiety, depression, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

ASD referrals

Autism Center: 504.896.7272

Psychologists

Halley Blanchard, PhD

Farrah Golymaryami, PhD, BCBA

Jessica Grande, PhD

Corinn Johnson, PhD

Jodi Kamps, PhD

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

Susan Fielkow, MD, FAAP

The Autism Center at Manning Family Children's serves children ages 18 months to 21 years.

The Licensed Psychologists in the Autism Center provide comprehensive diagnostic evaluations for suspected ASD, and for children with a developmental disability like ASD, intellectual disability, or global developmental delay.

Dr. Fielkow provides evaluation, treatment, and medication management as indicated for children and adolescents with a wide range of neurodevelopmental and behavioral concerns such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disorders, mild intellectual disabilities, and developmental concerns accompanying some genetic conditions. She also provides autism evaluations specifically for children ages three and under.

Referral process

Referrals can be submitted via Epic by selecting LCMC Health Ambulatory Referral to Pediatric Behavioral Health/Psychiatry/Psychology and selecting department "CHNO ST Autism" or via fax to 504.896.7273. Please include reason for referral and provisional diagnosis.



National resources



Autism Society of America



Association for Science in Autism Treatment



Autism Speaks



Local resources



Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities



Families Helping Families



Autism Society of Greater New Orleans



Exceptional Lives



Autism Society of Louisiana Chapter



Early Steps

Legal Advocacy and Assistance



Disability Rights Louisiana



Legal Status in Louisiana: A Guide to Full Interdiction, Limited Interdiction, Continuing Tutorship, Representative & Mandate (formerly Power of Attorney), and Representative Payment

Autism Speaks Tool Kits for parents

A Parent's Guide to Autism



View available resources for caregivers of children and adolescents recently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. This is a series of Family Support Tool Kits developed by the Autism Speaks.



Parent's Guide to Applied Behavior Analysis



Toilet Training Guide



Guide to Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism



Strategies to Improve Sleep in Children with Autism



Visual Supports and Autism



Guide to Individualized Education Programs (IEP)

Autism Speaks Tool Kits for parents

Managing challenging behavior



View available resources that provide strategies to address challenging behaviors and find helpful ways to respond to these difficult situations.



Autism Speaks Tool Kits for parents

Preparing for medical procedures

Dental Tool Kit



View available resources to find tips on managing dental care for children and adolescents diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Helpful tips and videos are available to guide caregivers through oral care and hygiene.



ATN/AIR-P Provider's Guide to Blood Draws



View available resources to inform caregivers about methods to avoid stressful routine medical procedures.

ATN/AIR-P Having an Electroencephalogram (EEG): A Guide for Parents



View available resources to better prepare caregivers and children or adolescents with expectations regarding EEG procedures.

Community resources



High 5 Challenge toolkit and resources



Family resource library



Need transportation assistance to get to your appointment?

Aetna Better Health

Reservations: 877.917.4150
Where's My Ride: 877.917.4151

AmeriHealth Caritas

Reservations: 888.913.0364
Where's My Ride: 877.917.4151

Healthy Blue

Reservations: 866.430.1101
Where's My Ride: 877.917.4151

Humana

Reservations: 844.613.1638
Where's My Ride: 844.613.1638

Louisiana Healthcare Connections

Reservations: 855.369.3723
Where's My Ride: 855.369.3724

United Healthcare Community Plan

Reservations: 866.726.1472
Where's My Ride: 866.726.1473

Behavioral health clinics and citizens with developmental disabilities services by region

Region 1

Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD)

Algiers Behavioral Health Center, Chartres-Pontchartrain Behavioral Health Center, St. Bernard Behavioral Health Center, Central City Behavioral Health & Access Center, New Orleans East Behavioral Health Center, Plaquemines Community CARE Center
504.568.3130

Behavioral health, psychiatry, addictive disorders, intellectual/developmental disabilities (OCDD)

24 Hour Crisis Line

504.826.2675

Family Helping Families

NOLA: 504.943.0343 or 1.877.243.7352

Resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families

Region 10

Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JeffCare)

3616 S. I-10 Service Rd.
Metairie, LA 70001
504.838.5257
5001 West Bank Expy., Suite 100
Marrero, LA 70072

24-Hour Mobile Crisis Line

504.832.5123
Individual and family therapy, psychiatry, substance use prevention and treatment, developmental disabilities community services (OCDD) 504.838.5424

Family Helping Families

Greater New Orleans: 504.888.9111
Resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families

Region 9

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority

Serves Livingston, St. Tammany, Washington, and Tangipahoa Parishes
985.543.4333

Behavioral health, psychiatry, addictive disorders, intellectual/developmental disabilities (OCDD)

Family Helping Families

Northshore: 985.875.0511

Resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families

If your parish is not listed above, please visit <https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm directory/category/147> to find your local OCDD office.