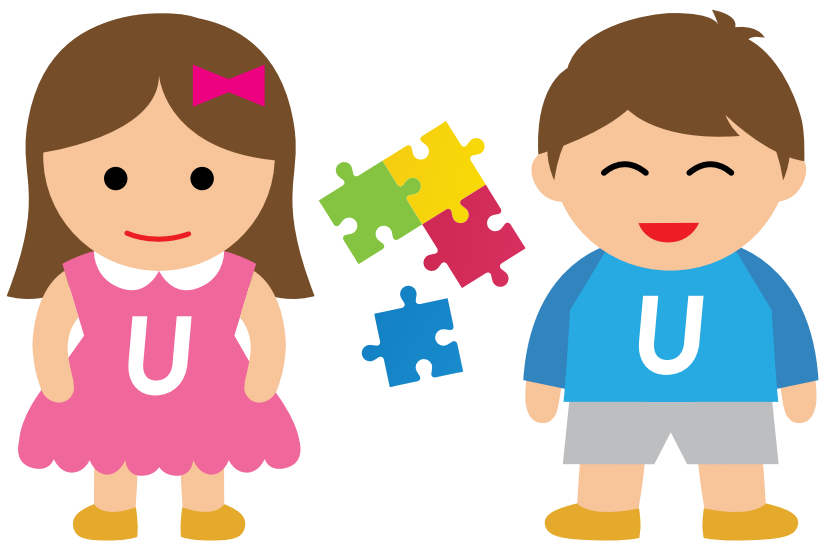


# What do I need to know about autism?



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) describes a wide range of neurodevelopmental disorders that can cause significant social, behavioral and communication challenges.

## What causes ASD?

While there is no single cause of autism, recent research has identified several genes that increase a child's risk for ASD. Children who have a sibling with ASD and those who are born to older parents are also at increased risk of developing ASD.

## See your pediatrician

Children develop certain skills and abilities at their own pace. However, if you are concerned your child is not meeting milestones, consult with your pediatrician, who may recommend further behavioral analysis by an ASD specialist.

**Early intervention is key** — children with autism do progress.

## Symptoms

Symptoms, which typically develop by age 3, include:

- Difficulty with social interactions
- Limited eye contact
- Limited emotional response (not smiling at parents)
- Delayed/unusual speech patterns
- Limited use of nonverbal communication
- Repetitive speech or body movements
- Unusual sensory interests/sensitivities

**1 in 67**  
kids have ASD  
in the U.S.



## Treatment options

The most well-known treatment is applied behavior analysis, used to reduce challenging behaviors and build skills across all areas of development. Other forms of treatment include language and communication therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Medications are sometimes used to treat related symptoms.

