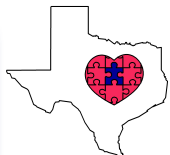


# What You Should Know About Autism Spectrum Disorders

Heart of Texas Autism Network  
[hotautismnetwork.org](http://hotautismnetwork.org)



A Heart of Texas Autism Network Publication

**LOCAL RESOURCES**  
 Heart of Texas Autism Network  
[hotautismnetwork.org](http://hotautismnetwork.org)  
 ARC of McLennan County

[wacoarc.org](http://wacoarc.org)  
**Baylor Autism Resource Center**  
 > [baylor.edu/autism](http://baylor.edu/autism)



## Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disorders that affect social, communication and behavioral challenges. People with ASDs handle information in their own way.

ASDs are "spectrum disorders". They range from mild to severe. People with ASDs share some characteristics with social interaction. But each person is different.

are and the exact nature of the disorder vary over time. Some children with an ASD show hints of future problems early on, while others show up until 24 months or later. Some children with an ASD seem to have typical development until 18 months or later, but then lose skills.

## Three Types of Autism Spectrum Disorders

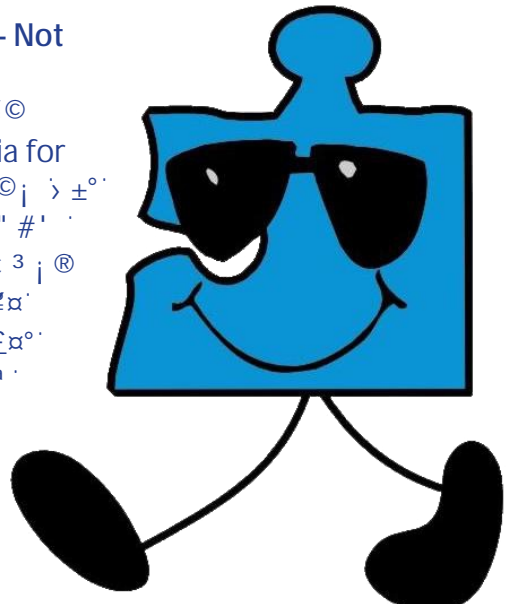
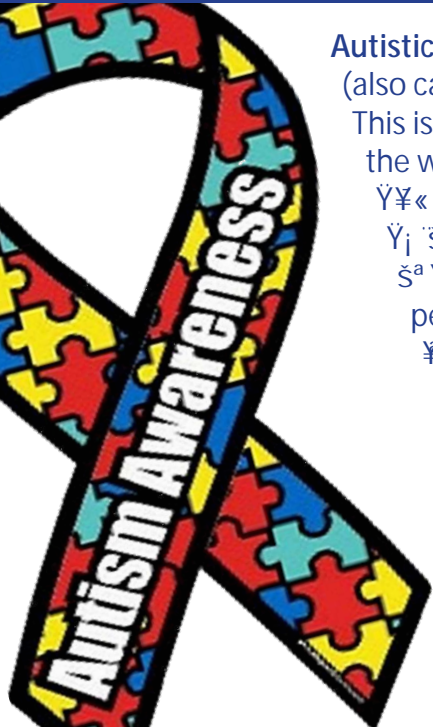
**Autistic Disorder**  
 (also called "classic" autism)  
 This is what most people think of when hearing the word "autism". People with an autistic disorder have significant challenges in social interaction, communication and behavior.

**Asperger Syndrome**  
 People with Asperger Syndrome have challenges in social interaction and unusual behaviors, but they do not have significant communication challenges.

**Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Specified**  
 People who meet some of the criteria for Autistic Disorder or Asperger Syndrome but do not meet the full criteria for either.

**Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Specified**  
 People who meet some of the criteria for Autistic Disorder or Asperger Syndrome but do not meet the full criteria for either. They may have significant challenges.

The Waco Walk for Autism Puzzle Piece is a fundraiser for the Heart of Texas Autism Network.



The Autism Awareness Ribbon is a well known, symbol of autism.

