



Autism Spectrum Disorder



FACTS:

- 1 in 68 children has ASD
- 5 times more common in boys
- Fastest growing developmental disorder

MKSA continues to be a leader in diagnosing ASD and providing evidence-based treatment for children on the autism spectrum

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The Early Intervention Program is a public program funded by NYS, Nassau & Suffolk counties, & the NYC Dept of Mental Health, & is for children under 3 years of age who have or are suspected of having a developmental delay and/or disability. Eligibility for the EIP can be determined only by State approved evaluators under contract with the municipality. If a child is found eligible for the EIP, all services are identified in collaboration with the family & must be authorized by the municipality, who will arrange for service providers to deliver services. All services under the EIP are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to families, but health insurance may be accessed, without affecting your family's benefits. For services provided in community settings that require a fee, the parent is responsible for paying those costs. To access EI services, contact the Nassau County Dept. of Health at 516-227-8661 or the Suffolk County Dept. of Health at 631-853-3100. To access EI services within New York City, contact the NYC Help Line at 311. MKSA LLC is an approved provider of Early Intervention services under contract with Nassau county, Suffolk county & NYC. The CPSE program is funded & regulated by the NYS Education Department, county and your local school district for children 3-5. Services are provided at no direct cost to families for children who meet eligibility guidelines.

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is characterized by difficulty interacting and communicating with others. Children with ASD also tend to engage in repetitive behaviors, which may be physical (flapping hands, jumping repetitively) or vocal (repeating videos, making repetitive sounds). Play skills are also often immature and repetitive. Severity varies and each child on the spectrum presents with a unique array of symptoms. While all children with ASD present with some challenges in the areas of language and socialization, some may have a complete lack of spoken language and have more challenging behaviors that disrupt their daily lives and the lives of their families.

Indicators of ASD

- avoids eye contact
- doesn't babble by 1 year
- doesn't speak one word by 16 months
- doesn't respond to name
- doesn't follow simple directions
- loses language or social skills
- doesn't play with toys appropriately
- lines up toys or objects excessively
- doesn't point to indicate what he wants
- doesn't imitate what others do (i.e. blow kisses)
- limited or no back-and-forth conversation
- doesn't understand body language or gestures
- no interest in playing with peers
- repetitive motor movement (i.e. hand flapping)
- repeatedly vocalizes parts of TV shows, books, or previously heard conversations (this could be immediately after hearing them or days later)
- insistence on routines remaining the same; may get upset when asked to move to a different activity or when daily schedule is changed (i.e. a different route is taken)



Diagnostic Evaluations

Diagnostic evaluations are conducted by licensed psychologists to diagnose or rule out ASD.

Behavioral Services

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is considered the treatment of choice for ASD.