

Making the Arts Autism Friendly

Autism Prevalence

- 1 in 88 children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cause thought to be combination of genetics and environment
- Research shows multiple genes involved

Autism Spectrum Disorders

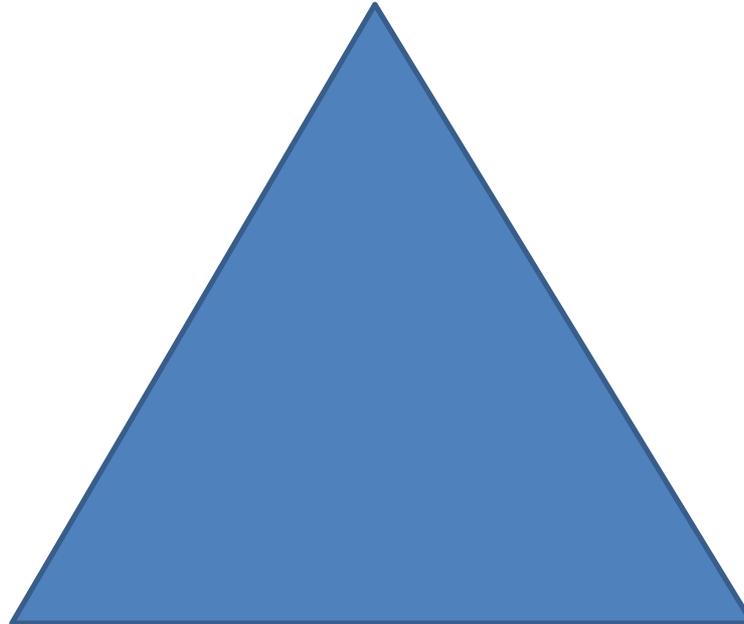
- Complex disorder
- Individuals vary greatly
- A Brain disorder – different wiring.
- Diagnosed based on symptoms.
- Spectrum - symptoms can be mild to severe.
- Full Range of IQ scores represented.
- Treatable, not curable

Symptoms of ASD

Communication

Behavior

Social



Continuum of ASD

More Severe

Less Severe



Social Behavior Across the Spectrum

- Severe – May have no response to social interaction and no initiation.
- Moderate – May have few stereotyped ways of interacting with others to meet needs, not sustained, does not understand social etiquette between people or groups.
- Mild – May have odd interactions and limited comprehension of other people's behavior. Inadvertently offensive to others. May be gullible or defensive.

Behavioral Impairment Across the Spectrum

- Severe – may have no interest in toys, lack of eye contact, repetitive stimulatory behaviors.
- Moderate – May not play with toys as intended – focus on wheels or lining up. May insist on same routine. Possible tantrums when frustrated.
- Mild – Plays with toys as intended but play may be stereotyped (always the same). May precisely imitate tv or movies. May have excessive interest in particular topic. Difficulty accepting changes and interacting with others may lead to withdraw and isolation.

Communication Impairment Across the Spectrum

- Severe – May not communicate at all and not responsive receptively.
- Moderate – May use words or gestures to meet needs and communicate basic information. Has some receptive ability. May be echoic (repeat).
- Mild – Good quality of speech and grammar but deficits in comprehension of idioms, metaphors and stories. Talks excessively about interest areas. Difficulty in reciprocal conversation.

Other symptoms

- Sensory sensitivity
- Abnormalities in eating patterns
- Motor clumsiness
- Sleep disorders
- High pain threshold
- Unusual emotional responses
- Behavioral difficulties – aggression, self injury
- Fascination with certain stimuli
- ADHD – impulsivity, short attention span
- Need for routine

- Teach concepts
- Use repeated trials.
- Be aware of difficulty generalizing concepts.
- May see rule-bound behavior, rigidity, inflexibility.
- May have trouble considering context when applying rules.
- May have difficulty coping with novel situations where rules are not known or there are no rules.
- May excel at details related to a narrow range of topics.

Theory of Mind

The ability to understand that others may have different thoughts or feelings than I have.

Implications for the family

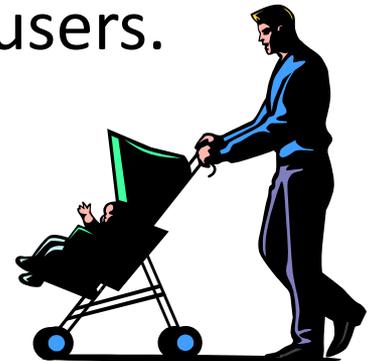


Universal Design

- Making the arts accessible and engaging for all participants.
- A framework for removing barriers by anticipating the needs for all participants
- Provides a blueprint for creating goals, methods, materials and presentations for everyone—not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs.

The Benefits:

For example, curb cuts in sidewalks were originally conceived to assist wheelchairs in navigating up and down sidewalks. But once installed on street corners, mothers with baby strollers, kids on bikes, and professionals with suitcases on wheels found the curb cuts equally beneficial. Soon, followers of universal design realized the modifications incorporated for people with disabilities actually benefited all users.



Universal Design

- Strategies and technology bridge gaps in participants skills, interests and needs.
- Accommodates participants different strengths and needs.
- Transforms participation into a more engaging, meaningful experience.

Learning styles- how do you learn best

- Kinesthetic



- Visual



- Verbal



- Hearing



One size does not fit all

- 3 Principles of UDL

Presentation: provide multiple & flexible methods to acquire information and knowledge

Expression: provide multiple & flexible methods with alternatives for demonstrating what they have learned

Engagement: provide multiple & flexible methods to tap into their interests, challenge them appropriately and motivate them to participate.

Why Include?

- Language of Us-Them
- Differentiation and adaptation should make the difference between presence and participation
- Include as spectator and participants
- Even if they do one thing, they've done one thing

CAST

- **CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology)**
- A nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through Universal Design for Learning

www.cast.org/udl/

