



## Autism Facts:

Autism is a part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism Spectrum Disorder refers to a group of developmental disabilities that affect a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction and behavior. Individuals with ASD typically have difficulty learning appropriate ways of relating to other people, objects, and events. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. No two people with ASD are the same. As its name implies, ASD is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and with varying degrees of severity. ASD is often found in combination with other disabilities.

- ❖ 1 in 150 births results in a diagnosis of autism.
- ❖ Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.
- ❖ More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- ❖ Autism is a developmental disability, which usually begins before 3 years of age and is a life-long disability.
- ❖ Currently, there are no effective means to prevent autism, no fully effective treatments, and no cure.
- ❖ Autism is 4 times more likely to occur in boys than girls.
- ❖ The economic cost of autism is \$90 billion per year and that number is expected to double in the next decade.
- ❖ There are more than 50,000 families in North Carolina affected by autism.
- ❖ At least 124 school-aged children with autism in Western North Carolina will join the hundred of current adults affected by autism this year.