If you know one child with autism, then you know one child with autism.”
What is an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurobiological developmental disorder characterized by deficits in social interactions and social communication and by restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior caused by under-connectivity in the brain and abnormal brain hormone levels.

A broad spectrum disorder that can range from non-verbal, cognitively impaired children all the way to gifted children who are highly verbal.
Say the font color, not the word

Green  Black
Blue   Brown
Bird   Dog
Red    Purple
Yellow Pink
Yellow Blue
Cat    Red
What causes autism?

A combination of genetic and environmental factors…

It is genetic but not necessarily inherited

Many causes within the spectrum which is why we see such a spectrum of behaviors and skills
Characterized by…

_Social Interaction and Social Communication:_

- Child shows little interest in making friends or makes odd attempts at friendships;
- Initiates social interactions primarily to have immediate needs met (e.g., to get food, preferred toy); and tends not to share accomplishments and experiences.
- Other symptoms include lack of eye contact, and absent or limited and atypical gestures (e.g., using someone’s hand as a tool for opening the door).
- Loss of language occurs in some cases.

_Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behaviors:_

- Intensely repetitive motor movements or use of objects;
- Child is consumed with a single item, idea, or person;
- Experiences difficulty with changes in the environment or transitioning from one situation to another;
- May have frequent tantrums; and may be aggressive or self-injurious.
Co-Morbid Conditions

- ADD/ADHD
- Anxiety
- Bowel Disease
- Depression and other Psychopathological Disorders
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Intellectual Disability
- Motor Skill Impairment
- Neuro-inflammation and Immune Disorders
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Tourette’s Syndrome
- Tuberous Sclerosis
- Seizures
- Sensory Processing Disorder
Effects 1:59 children in the US – CDC, 2019
Affects boys more than girls 5:1 ratio – CDC, 2014
As of December 2017-18 reporting Cycle
118,490 students were identified with an ASD - CDE 2018
As of December 2018-19 reporting Cycle
120,095 students were identified with an ASD - CDE 2019
163

Current Students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder In Glenn County Schools between the ages 3 to 22 years old
How do we diagnose?

- ASD diagnostic criteria are described in the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V).
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) is the gold standard for assessment can be used for individuals who are 18 months old to adult.
- Qualified professionals provide these diagnoses when symptoms of ASD (social interaction and social communication, and repetitive behaviors) are present in ranges that are inappropriate for the child’s age and developmental level.
- A Severity Scale is now part of the diagnosis to indicate the level of support an individual with ASD requires:
  - Level 1 Requiring Support,
  - Level 2 Requiring Substantial Support,
  - Level 3 Requiring Very Substantial Support.
Star Maze

➢ Complete the maze but you can only look in the mirror.
Sometimes we know what to do, but we just can’t make ourselves do it.
We must teach skills – Don’t expect kids to just know them!
10 Things your child with Autism Wishes you knew...
Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

➢ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
➢ Photographs by Unsplash