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### Children with Autism and Related Disorders

Autism is a life long developmental disability that is best described as a collection of behavioral symptoms. There has been a difficulty of arriving at a clear diagnosis of Autism because the fact that there are number of disorders related to Autism referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorders/Pervasive Developmental Disorders. The term Autism spectrum disorders and PDD refer to collection of syndromes and conditions ranging from those in which only a few of the characteristics of autism present or the characteristics of autism present in a very mild form, to autism itself. Over time each of these syndromes is given specific names and the characteristics are more clearly identifies.

Children with autism exhibit severely disordered verbal and nonverbal language and unusual behavior patterns. Asperger's syndrome, children experience nonverbal language problems, have a restricted range of interests, and have a good verbal language. PDD-NOS, children experience nonverbal language difficulties, but do not meet the criteria for other PDD disorders. Rett's disorder, A rare genetic neurodegenerative disorder that primarily affects girls, resulting in loss social skills, language, and motor development, accompanied by distorted hand movements. Childhood disintegrative disorder, after few years of normal development, children regress progressively in all areas, including language, social development, and motor

development. Individuals with Asperg's Syndrome may have many of the social and behavioral characteristics of autism, without any marked delays in language and cognitive development. They experience difficulties in social functioning and relationships, but not in the intelligence or language skills. Learning disabilities, motor clumsiness, and hyper-sensitivity to sensory stimuli, such as loud sounds, are also common. Does very well in some academic areas, yet not well in others. Resists working group projects or in cooperative learning groups. Individuals with autism also have specific genetic abnormalities, although many genes appear to be associated with autism. Fragile X Syndrome is an inherited disorder caused by abnormalities in the chromosomes.

Individuals with autism require extensive behavior support and skills instructions that are based on their life skills as they grow up. Other individuals with autism may not need the one-on-one because their behavior is not as extreme. As a teacher it is important to make sure the student feels that their needs are being met and that most importantly, they feel included. During activities it can improve their communication skills when they are shown a picture that matches the word. As a teacher we can help improve on their social skills by engaging eye contact with them. I used to work in a ABA classroom and most of the students were autistic, when you would talk to them they won't look at you and look around. They have a hard time responding to their name as well. The lead teacher would do hand-over-hand teaching so they can get their touching sense and know what they're doing. It is important to also make sure the parent's part-take to help their child succeed in the outside world. Autism is very common and if they're taught basic life skills as they grow up they will not be discriminated by their disorder.

Children with autism should be able to be in an inclusion classroom so they can be exposed to their other peers and develop communication and social skills as well. Parents often

think that their child will be bullied but children enjoy helping their peers in different ways to help them learn and better understand the material.