

# Is it autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

## Did you know?

- Many children are seen for possible ASD but are **not** diagnosed with autism.
- Most children diagnosed with autism are **also** diagnosed with something else.

## What are other possible diagnoses?

### Intellectual disability or global developmental delay

- Learns more slowly than other children
- Has trouble with thinking and everyday tasks
- May move in ways like children with autism, such as hand flapping

### Speech or language disorders

- Has a hard time understanding or using words
- Trouble saying words right
- Problems doing tasks that use words
- Is better at tasks that use pictures or shapes, like puzzles
- May have trouble talking with others in social settings

### Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

- Has trouble paying attention, staying still, and waiting
- Might find it hard to play with others
- Can be sensitive to sounds, lights, or touch (like children with autism)

### Disruptive behavior disorder or oppositional defiant disorder

- Trouble doing what they are told
- May hit or do things that are not safe
- Has trouble getting along with other children

### Anxiety disorders

- Worries a lot or feels scared often
- May need things done a certain way
- Might be shy or avoid others
- Will not do things that feel scary

### Nonverbal learning disorder

- Good at doing tasks that use words, but struggles with puzzles or pictures
- Has trouble reading facial expressions or body language
- Good vocabulary skills, which can sound unusual

### Social communication disorder

- Has trouble talking or playing with others (like children with autism)
- Has good nonverbal communication and few or no rigid or repetitive behaviors
- Only diagnosed if autism does not fit. Cannot be diagnosed with both at the same time.

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