



This month, take the time to learn a little bit about autism spectrum disorders.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors. There is usually nothing about how a person with ASD looks that sets them apart from other people, but they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most people.

These are early signs that can help you recognize ASD:

- Lack of or delay in spoken language
- Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms, such as hand-flapping or twirling objects
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

There is no known single cause for ASD, but increased awareness can help families know what to look for and how to get help. The earlier an individual is diagnosed, the earlier the individual can begin benefiting from specialized intervention approaches.

Spread the message...

Ohio has a guide to help parents understand ASD and how to find services and supports. *Ohio's Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders* was created by parents for parents, and is published by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Visit their website to learn more at www.ocali.org. This month ... share this resource with someone you know ... and they can share it with someone they know ... and then you too can be part of building autism awareness in Ohio.

This information is brought to you by Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism, convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. To find out more visit:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/topics/iagautism.htm>

