

Some Myths & Facts

Myths

Facts

Autism is caused by poor parenting or parental behaviours.

Parents do not and cannot cause autism. While there is presently no known cause for autism, it is known that parental behaviour before, during and after pregnancy does not cause ASD to develop.

Autism is a behavioural / mental health / emotional disorder. It can be cured.

Autism is a developmental disorder of the brain. It usually manifests in early childhood (around the age of three or four) and lasts a lifetime. There is no known cure, although through intensive and individually-tailored training, people with autism can be helped.

Persons with autism do not have friends and do not care about others.

Persons with autism desire to relate with others, and many are able to develop friendships. However, they often lack the ability to spontaneously develop empathic and socially connected typical behaviour.

People with autism possess special talents and all have "savant skill".

Most individuals with autism do not have special "savant skill". Some have areas of high performance that are not consistent with other skill levels, called "splinter skill".

People with autism do not make eye contact, do not speak and are not very bright.

In interactions, many people with autism do establish some form of eye contact, though in less typical ways for some. Many also have good functional linguistic abilities, and others communicate non-verbally, through gestures or other augmentative communication aids. Intelligence varies with the autism spectrum.

