

# What is Autism?

## Did you know...

Autism affects an estimate of 1 in 88 children and is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a neuro-developmental disability characterized by impairments in reciprocal social interactions, verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and stereotyped behavior, interests, and activities.

Autism diagnostic criteria is divided into two areas: social communication impairment and restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior.

Autism is a spectrum disorder, meaning that there is a wide variation in the severity of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe. No two children are alike!



# Contact us



## Autism Outreach Project

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Washington State Department of  
Early Learning

Early Support  
for Infants  
and Toddlers



Northwest Educational  
Service District 189  
*Together We Can*

Meeting the Informational  
Needs of Washington State

# Autism Outreach Project



A State Needs Project through the  
Office of the Superintendent of Public  
Instruction in collaboration with Early  
Support for infants and Toddlers and the  
Northwest Educational Service District 189.

Improving the Educational  
Outcomes of Students With  
Autism Spectrum Disorders

# About the Autism Outreach Project



## Our mission

The mission of the Autism Outreach Project is to provide information, education, and assistance focused on building the capacity of schools, families, and agencies to ensure that children and students with autism spectrum disorders, birth through age 21, are appropriately served throughout the state of Washington.

**Autism Outreach Project**  
**1-888-704-9633**  
**autism@nwesd.org**

## Our services

### Training

- Local, regional, and statewide workshops on evidence-based practices for teaching and supporting students with autism spectrum disorders.
- Interactive videoconference training to locations statewide.
- Intensive week-long Combined Summer Institute.
- Presentations to parent groups and agencies.

### Resources

- **Lending Library** containing an extensive collection of reference materials on autism spectrum disorders available for loan to Washington State residents.
- **Website** containing comprehensive information on autism and links to autism resources.
- Dissemination of high-quality educational resources from state and national organizations.



## Information

- Early intervention
- Educational intervention
- Current research
- School/home collaboration
- Transition planning
- Autism conferences and special presentations



## Referral

- Support groups
- Associations and agencies
- Autism consultants
- Diagnostic centers

## Technical Assistance

- Individual consultation to schools and families.
- Referral and coordination with autism specialists.
- Collaboration with agencies supporting children with autism spectrum disorders.

## Needs Assessment

- Data collected annually to identify and meet the informational needs of Washington State schools and families.