



Myths and Facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD): Test your knowledge on ASD!

1. *ASD is caused when babies born too soon are given oxygen in an incubator.*

Myth!

ASD is not caused by giving oxygen- some children will need supplemental oxygen as part of their treatment while in hospital. This has not been shown to cause autism.

Autism is not known to have a specific cause. However, it has been linked to certain factors which may increase the risk of a child developing autism. These include changes in some genes, maternal health and infections (e.g. rubella) during pregnancy, as well as environmental factors such as air pollution.

2. *ASD only affects boys.*

Myth!

Both boys and girls are affected by autism, but it is more common in boys.

Girls are often underdiagnosed with ASD and misdiagnosed with other conditions

3. *ASD is a spiritual disease.*

Myth!

ASD is real and is a medical condition. It does not affect a child because they have been cursed. It does not occur because a child has received a vaccine.

4. *Children with ASD are cognitively impaired*

Myth!

Some children with ASD have exceptional skills and are described as “savant”. They have sharp visual memory, are musically savvy or may have creative problem-solving ability.

5. *Both adults and children can have ASD*

Fact!

ASD is a lifelong condition and has no cure. A child with ASD grows up to be an adult with ASD. Early intervention can make a world of difference in improving the outcome for individuals with ASD. If you have concerns about your child’s development, see your child’s doctor. Speech, occupational and behavioral therapy can help a child with ASD become a productive and independent member of society.

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