

Working with families.

Autism Spectrum Disorders, or Pervasive Developmental Disorders, are typically first observed in children during toddler years. These diagnoses can affect a family in a variety of ways. Because of this, our goal is not only to work with the child's strengths and weaknesses, but also to support and work with the family. Parents and caregivers are a necessary part of the evaluation and treatment process, as they know their children better than anyone. It is our hope to collaborate with families, while providing parents with support and information to help with home life and school adjustment. Therapy sessions are typically held weekly or biweekly, with the agreement that families will work on skills outside of the sessions.



The Autism Spectrum Disorders program at Moore Counseling Center, P.C., is directed by Jennifer L. Morris, Ph.D.

Dr. Morris earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Oklahoma State University. She received her doctoral degree from the Clinical Child Psychology program at the University of Alabama and completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Morris has been working with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum for more than 8 years.

Dr. Twyla L. Mancil completed her clinical internship at the Florida State University Louise R. Goldhagen Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center. She received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Florida in August 2012. Dr. Mancil has clinical and research experience with developmental and behavioral disorders among child and adolescent populations.

Dr. Vicky L. Turner received her doctoral degree from the School Psychology program at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Consortium in Norman, Oklahoma. Dr. Turner completed her post-doctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology with an emphasis in developmental disabilities and child maltreatment at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Child Study Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

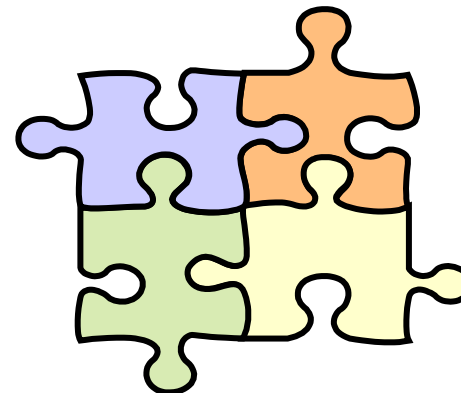
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Autism Spectrum Disorders



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Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are developmental disorders involving deficits in three main areas that can significantly affect a child's daily life.

Communication - Children with ASDs can have a variety of communication deficits, ranging from no verbal language to repetitive/echoed language.

Social Interaction - Social interaction deficits may include a lack of interest in peers and difficulty expressing nonverbal behaviors (eye contact, facial expressions). Some children with ASD have interest in others, but do not have the social skills to appropriately interact with others.

Unusual and Repetitive Behaviors - Unusual and repetitive behaviors have become some of the hallmark symptoms of children with autism. These can include repetitive movements, intense interests in objects or parts of objects, or an overwhelming need for structure and routine.

The ASDs include Autism, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS).



Source: DSM-IV-TR, American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

Diagnostic Evaluations

The first step in working with a family of a child with ASD is accurate diagnosis. The diagnostic evaluation can provide great information that can be used to help with treatment and school recommendations. A typical evaluation includes



a diagnostic play session (using the gold-standard Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - 2nd Ed.), parent interview, intellectual testing, and adaptive behavior assessment. A detailed report, including recommendations, is written and discussed with each family.

Intervention/Treatment Services

Because of the unique nature of ASDs, treatment goals are individualized to meet the needs of each child and family. Individual and family therapy services involve developmental and behavioral interventions. The Moore Counseling Center (MCC) autism specialists were trained in using both structured teaching and behavioral therapy methods, and they typically use a skillful combination of these techniques in their work with children with ASD and their families.

MCC autism spectrum services also include school consultation and social skills groups.



Recommended Books & Websites

The World of the Autistic Child
Bryna Siegel

Autism: Understanding the Disorder
Gary Mesibov, Lynn Adams, & Laura Klinger

A Parent's Guide to Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism
Sally Ozonoff, Geraldine Dawson, & James McPartland

Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals
Tony Attwood

Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships
Temple Grandin and Sean Barron

Visual Strategies for Improving Communication
Linda Hodgdon

The Autism Society of America –
www.autism-society.org

Oklahoma Autism Network - www.okautism.org

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