Q. The prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the United States is estimated to be which of the following?:

- A. 1 in 7
- B. 1 in 88
- C. 1 in 200
- D. 1 in 1000

However, a recent national study indicates that it may be closer to 1 in 50.
The Body of Christ and Autism Spectrum Disorder

As the Body of Christ, we understand ASD and other disabilities in terms of gifts, challenges and needs.

Every individual is unique, and brings his/her own gifts and needs.

Meet Justin

* Drawing became language for communication.
* Justin is fluent in the language of pictures.
* Justin has been taking some college courses, in addition to high school.
* Justin already has begun a career illustrating books & has been commissioned as an artist.

Meet Ben

Be(com)ing Part of a Community

* Choose catechetical setting
* Awareness
* Praised kids in class who were nice to him
* Practice, practice, practice
* School can help
* At home work for Eucharist preparation

From Ben’s mom, Mary Beth Walsh, Ph.D., PRAISE Executive Advisory Board, past co-chair NCPD Autism Task Force.
Meet Samantha

* Extremely active
* Taught self to swim
* Loves to sing
* Expressive language develops slowly
* Additional medical issues
* Independent

Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder

* Current diagnostic systems tend to focus on deficits...
* Knowing common characteristics can assist us in anticipating and meeting the needs of individuals with ASD.

Recent Changes with the DSM-V

* Were individual disorders
* Now one: Autism Spectrum Disorder.
Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Reclassification can result in differences in eligibility for services.
- Families might still identify their child’s needs using the former diagnostic system.

Two Domains

Domain One: Social Communication/Social Interaction issues (2/3)

Domain Two: Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, activities (3/4)

Language

- Expressive and Receptive Language issues for many on the spectrum.
- DSM-V may diagnose them with Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder.
Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder

Challenges in social use of verbal and nonverbal communication

Language

- Much less developed language or no language at all
- Communication systems such as the PECS method have been helpful, as have assistive technologies.

WHAT ARE SOME TYPES OF AAC?

Low Tech
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- Picture Boards
- Picture binders/wallets
- Photographs
- Sign language
- Gestures

High Tech
- Single Level
- Multi-level
- Comprehensive system


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Behavior Communicates

Why Am I Acting Like This?
Most behavior serves a function:
• Medical
• Escape or Avoidance
• Attention
• Tangibles or activities
• Sensory stimulation

Behavior Management
Conditions that may occasion a problem behavior:
• Task demands
• Denied access to desired activities/materials
• Lack of adult attention
• Disorganization/Lack or Delay of materials/supplies

If it’s too noisy!
Go to a quiet area.
Visit Miss Anne.
Go for a walk.
Listen to music.
Behavior Contract #2

When Miss Linda talks, I will listen quietly.

If it is too noisy, I will not flap my hands. I will ask to:
• Go for a walk.
• Go to a quiet place.
• Visit Miss Jessica.
• Read a book.
• Listen to music.
If I do this …….., I will play kick ball.

Anne’s signature: ___________________ Date ___/___/___
Catechist’s signature: ___________________ Date ___/___/___

Reinforcement

* Increases the likelihood of a particular response in the future.

* Positive and Negative Reinforcement

* Delivery

Reinforcer

* Primary Reinforcers

* Secondary Reinforcers
  * Social
  * Tangible
  * Generalized

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**Prompting & Prompt Fading**

* Additional information given with an instruction to increase the probability of a correct response.

* Promotes Independence

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**How To Prompt**

* General Guidelines
  * Move in and out
  * Do not hover

* How to time delivery
  * 15 seconds OR
  * Immediately

* Remember to FADE

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**Types of Prompting**

* Gestural
* Model
* Verbal
* Physical
* Textual
* Photographic

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**Question for Discussion**

What do people in our parishes and communities need to understand about individuals with ASD?
Resource List


Resource List, continued


Mental Health statistics courtesy of “Mom 2 Mom” for Mothers of Children with “Special Needs,” Cherie Castellano, MA, CSW, LPC, AAETS; April 14, 2009.

www.ncpd.org

Resource List


Resource List


PRAISE Professional Executive Advisory Board

www.ncpd.org
NCPD Resource List

www.ncpd.org


USCCB Resource List

USCCB Documents and Resources


Image Resources

PCS, Boardmaker Plus by DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, 2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203, Phone: 1 (800) 588-4548, Fax: 1 (866) 585-6260, Email: mayer-johnson.usa@mayer-johnson.com, Web site: www.mayer-johnson.com.

Additional pictures from Google Images and liturgies in parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark.

http://www.justincanhaart.com

www.ncpd.org