

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a term used to describe a range or a spectrum of autism, from very mild to very severe. Included in this range are Asperger Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and autism. This range is one of the reasons that autism is such a complex disorder to treat. You will rarely meet two people with autism that are the same in their abilities.

Even though each person with autism is unique, there are some characteristics common in most individuals. These include:

- communication/language impairment
- social/communication impairment
- repetitive behaviours
- learning disabilities
- sensory processing difficulties

Current research indicates that ASD occurs in approximately
1 out of every 150 births

It is estimated there are as many as 80,000 individuals in Ontario affected by autism

What does Autism Ontario - Peterborough Chapter do?

Our Chapter has been helping families in Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Northumberland counties for over 30 years. The Chapter has a **Chapter Leadership Council** that oversees all operations, including organizing the general monthly meetings, managing finances and investments, establishing committees, creating services, circulating a newsletter, reporting to Autism Ontario and surveying our membership for their feedback and ideas.

The Peterborough Chapter offers:

- fundraisers that provide financial support for summer programs and yearly activities
- monthly support meetings
- advocacy and assistance
- workshop information
- financial assistance (for members)
- SEAC representation on local school boards
- social events
- and the latest news in ASD

What can I do to help?

▪ Become a member

The Peterborough Chapter encourages membership. Family membership with **Autism Ontario** is only \$50.00/year. As a member, you receive:

- our local newsletter
- Autism Ontario's quarterly magazine, *Autism Matters*
- admission fee paid at regional meetings
- free socials
- a membership card
- voting rights
- regular emails/notices of special events
- research updates
- mutual support and connections with others
- access to Autism Ontario post-secondary school scholarship opportunities

▪ Volunteer

Our Chapter is run by volunteers. We could not accomplish all the things we do without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. The Chapter is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in making a difference, please contact us.

▪ Make a donation

As a non-profit organization, donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Helpful acronyms

ABA – Applied Behavioural Analysis
AC – Augmentative Communication
AS – Asperger Syndrome
ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder
IBI – Intensive Behavioural Intervention
OT – Occupational Therapist
PDD – Pervasive Developmental Disorders
PDD-NOS – Pervasive Developmental Disorder (Not Otherwise Specified)
RDI – Relationship Development Intervention
SP – Sensory Processing

In Special Education:

EA – Educational Assistant
IEP – Individual Education Plan
IPRC – Identification, Placement, and Review Committee
ISA – Intensive Support Amount
LD – Learning Disability
PECS – Picture Exchange Communication System
SEAC – Special Education Advisory Committee
SEPPA – Special Education per Pupil Amount
VB – Verbal Behaviour

In the Community:

ACSD – Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
SSAH – Special Services at Home

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Join us for our **monthly meetings**, held the 4th Wednesday of each month - from **September to June** (some exceptions apply). We meet from 7pm to 9 pm at:

Beth Israel Synagogue
775 Weller Street
Peterborough, ON
K9J 6Y7

Social events are posted and updated regularly on our website. Feel free to email or call for additional details.

AutismONTARIO – Peterborough

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Our Vision

Acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Our Mission

To ensure that each individual with an Autism Spectrum Disorder is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

Key Areas

- advocacy and support
- research
- public awareness