



# ARTIUS AUTISM FACT SHEET

## What is Autism?

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a condition that affects an individual across their lifespan. It effects the individuals development, particularly in the areas of social communication and interaction, behaviour (repetitive and restricted behaviour) and interests in activities.**

Early diagnosis is beneficial as this will assist in helping provide therapeutic intervention to help them build upon their strengths and weaknesses. It also helps you as the support givers to learn and assist in their development of skills across their lifespan to be successful. It is labelled as a spectrum as individuals who have this condition can vary widely in how symptoms may affect them.

## Symptoms

The following symptoms can be used as early indicators of autism. Please be aware that a child must express multiple symptom indicators to be diagnosed with ASD.

### Play:

- They prefer to play alone
- Limited social play (i.e. may only engage in peek a boo and no other game)
- When they play, they only utilise certain toys or types of toys
- Plays with toys in an unusual way (i.e may sit and spin or line up objects)

- Repetitive speech (i.e. repeats one word or small phrases continuously)

### Sensory:

- May be afraid of everyday sounds
- Uses peripheral vision to view objects
- May have a higher or lower threshold for pain and temperature (either extreme or the other)

### Social Skills:

- Does not make eye contact
- Looks away when spoken to
- Does not show empathy
- Does not smile when smiled at
- Lack of interest in other children
- Appears to be in their own world

### Behaviour:

- The child has unexplainable tantrums/meltdowns
- Is highly attached to particular items
- May present with flapping arms or spinning actions
- Is unable to adapt to any change

### Communication:

- Does not respond to his/her name by the age of 12 months
- Does not point or wave by the age of 12 months
- Loss of words that they were previously able to utilise
- Is unable to talk by the age of 18 months
- No spontaneous phrases by the age of 2 years
- Selective hearing (i.e. only responding to particular sounds, ignoring parent's voices)

## Management

Early intervention is the key to assisting your child, whether they have been diagnosed with Autism or if they have any concerns in the above areas. Treatment should be individualised and altered to assist the child in achieving their full potential. You as the caregiver must now consider what therapeutic intervention will be best to support both you and your child. The supports that you and your child may surround yourself with may include:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Pathology
- Psychology
- Physiotherapy
- Paediatrician
- General Practitioner
- Child Psychiatrist
- Learning Support Teams
- Special Educators
- Counsellors

It is important to remember that following a diagnosis you as the caregiver/parent can be struggling with the diagnosis as well and that you may require some support through this process such as: Counselling, Psychology and Parent Support Groups.



## What can Artius offer?

We at Artius pride ourselves on our approach and promise to support you and your family through this process as well as provide you with an effective and efficient therapeutic support team. We aim to provide the following:

- Tailor your child's supports to what you feel your child needs. You are the expert on your child and we are here to support you to build and develop your skills as well as your child's skills to succeed
- Provide actions and activities for you and the family to complete at home to help your child achieve
- Provide equipment recommendations where appropriate
- Provide exceptional therapeutic support
- Work with you to develop the most comfortable and supported approach to helping your child build and develop their skills
- We will liaise with your GP and Paediatrician and provide updates as they require, and work with them as you, the caregiver, see fit
- Work with you and any other supports that you have engaged in with your child to make sure we tailor our therapeutic intervention to meet as many of your child's needs that we can

### We can provide you with the following therapeutic support including:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Pathology
- Psychology for both you and your child
- Physiotherapy

### These supports can be offered in the following environments:

- In the clinic
- At home
- At School (if the school provides permission for our services to occur there)

### Artius offer a variety of services to help make it as affordable as possible for you:

- Individual sessions
- Group sessions
- Joint sessions with other children (the numbers may vary, all parents/caregivers must agree to have this occur)
- Joint therapy sessions with multiple therapists

Varying therapy times: 30 minute sessions, 45 minute sessions or 60 minute sessions.

## Contact Us

To discuss services further or for referral please contact Artius:  
email: [info@artius.com.au](mailto:info@artius.com.au) or call: 1300 ARTIUS