

How Do I Make a Referral to the Autism Resource Team?

If you are a parent of a child with educational or behavioral concerns, communicate with your child's educational team or pediatrician about your concerns.

Early Access providers please complete and submit the EA referral form found on the GHAEA Autism webpage.

Teachers, please work with the AEA SPED rep in your building to complete and submit the school age referral form.

Both referral forms can be found on the AEA website Autism Resource Team Page: www.ghaea.org/autism

- Team member contact information
- Resources about Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Making a referral to the Autism Resource Team



Autism Resource Team



Serving: Children Teachers/Schools Families Communities

What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is considered a spectrum disorder which means the symptoms and characteristics of autism are evident in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe (Autism Society of Iowa).



Autism impacts the normal development of the brain. Children and adults with autism typically have difficulties with their verbal and non-verbal communication skills, socially interacting with others and taking part in leisure or play activities. The disorder makes it difficult to communicate with others and relate to the outside world.

The prevalence of Autism is approximately 1 in 88 (Center for Disease Control; 2012). It is four times more common in boys than girls and "knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries" (Autism Society of America). The occurrence of autism is not related to family income levels, lifestyle or educational levels.

Characteristics of Autism

- May not want to cuddle
- Delayed gross and fine motor skills
- Resistance to changes in routine
- Difficulty with communication and language
- Difficulty with expressing needs
- Preference for being alone
- May give little or no eye contact
- Unresponsiveness to typical teaching methods
- May not engage in imitative or make-believe play
- May appear fearless of danger



What Services Does the Autism Resource Team Offer?

The Green Hills AEA Autism Resource Team provides consultation, resources and support to families of children with autism and school teams that serve these children. The team provides families and school teams with strategies in the areas of academics, social skills, behavior, communication and sensory needs.

- Direct observation of child in school or home setting
- Recommendations for interventions that address areas of need
- Instruction to teams on implementation of interventions
- Provision of materials that support children's needs
- Resources for parents and teachers
- Autism Educator website
- Parent Facebook Page
- Ongoing support to educational teams and families



How is Autism Diagnosed?

Although the Autism Resource Team does not diagnose autism, assistance can be provided to families to find a reliable physician or psychiatrist who can evaluate a child for ASD. Information gathered by the school and screenings done by the Autism Team can be used to assist the physician in making a diagnosis.