

What is Autism?

Autism is a **brain disorder** that affects a person's ability to communicate, to reason, and to interact with others. It is a **spectrum disorder** that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity, and it is often found in combination with other disabilities.

How Common is Autism?

Autism is more common than childhood cancer, cystic fibrosis, and multiple sclerosis combined. It is also a lifelong disability.



What Causes Autism?

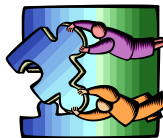
The cause for Autism remains unknown. Researchers believe there is a strong genetic component with a range of possible external or environmental triggers. However, it is clear that children with Autism are born with the disorder or the potential to develop it. Autism is NOT caused by bad parenting, and children with Autism are not unruly kids who choose to misbehave.

How is Autism Treated?

There is no cure for autism. Evidence shows that early intervention can result in positive outcomes and that those with autism respond well to a highly-structured, specialized education program tailored to their needs.

Because autism is a spectrum disorder, no one method alone is effective in treating the disorder. However, there are some treatments that may help reduce symptoms. These include: prescription medications and occupational, speech, and sensory therapies. Some families have also anecdotally reported benefits from vitamins and special diets.

Tucson Alliance for Autism
1002 N. Country Club Road
Tucson, AZ 85716



Tucson Alliance For Autism

A Community/University Partnership



UNITING
SCIENCE,

SERVICE,



and
SUPPORT



For individuals with Autism and their families

The Alliance

The Tucson Alliance for Autism (Tafa) is comprised of a not-for-profit charitable organization, the **Tucson Autism Community Center (TACC)**, and an academic institution, **The University of Arizona Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS), Medical School and Psychiatry Department.** During the past several years, each group has independently been setting the stage to build and maintain an Autism center in Tucson. In May of 2005, these groups merged to focus their collective energies into meeting the needs of the local autism community. This unique partnership between the community and the University of Arizona merges science, service, and support into a unified center.

Tafa is the Southwest's only association featuring a partnership between the local University and Community dedicated to serving individuals with autism and their families.

Our Mission

To promote community awareness and provide diagnostic and therapeutic services for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); to educate and support professionals and families on ASD-related issues; to support and provide resources for families; to stimulate research and represent the best interests of the autism community in Tucson and its surrounding areas.

Our core values define the essence of Tafa as an organization and its staff and underlie ALL activities conducted by Tafa in the pursuit of our Mission. Our core values include professionalism, friendliness, respect, knowledge, education, determination, perseverance, integrity, and community collaboration.

Aspiring Values

The Aspiring values for Tafa outline our expectations and vision for Tafa in the autism community. These Aspiring Values provide the framework of how we will meet our mission.

The first choice for autism diagnostic, therapeutic and related programs in the community.

A powerful resource and unifying influence for families and individuals affected by ASD.

A friendly, safe, and clean place for families and individuals affected by ASD to feel welcome.

A recognizable and reputable name and leading voice for the Tucson community for local, state and national ASD issues.

A source of education for families, schools professional and others.

Be a financially self-sustaining organization.

Contact Us

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Tucson, AZ 85716**

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www.tucsonallianceforautism.org

Autism knows no social, economic, ethnic, or religious boundaries.

Services & Programs

- Comprehensive Autism Evaluations
- Behavioral Consultations
- Speech/Language/Communication Evaluations
- Speech Therapy
- Social Thinking Groups
- Play Groups
- Life Skills & Social Thinking
- Summer Day Camps
- Support Groups
- Library
- Family Leisure Activities

Please contact Tafa to schedule appointments for evaluations, consultations and for current information regarding program and activity schedules.

You Can Help

Your tax deductible cash and in-kind donations will help Tafa continue to grow in its ability to provide a broad array of high quality services to individuals of all ages and their families as well as help us to reach our long-term goals.

To make a tax deductible donation please **make your check payable to: Tucson Alliance for Autism. Or visit our website and click on the "Just Give" link there.**

If you would like to make an in-kind donation please contact Tafa directly.