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## April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

Every April 2, World Autism Awareness Day brings greater attention to Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism Spectrum Disorder, or ASD, is an umbrella term for a group of complex brain development disorders. These disorders are characterized by difficulties in social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

Over the past 40 years there has been a 10-fold increase in the prevalence of ASD. Careful studies have shown that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Researchers have yet to pinpoint a cause of autism, although recent findings point to genetic and environmental factors.

There is no medical test or cure for autism, but studies have shown that early intervention improves learning, communication and social skills in young children with ASD. Your Employee Assistance Program can help you understand more.



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