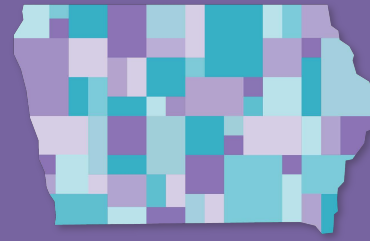


# Is it autism spectrum disorder or something else?



**RAP**  
Iowa Regional  
Autism Assistance  
Program

Did you know many children are seen for possible autism, but are not diagnosed with autism?

Did you know most children diagnosed with autism are also diagnosed with something else?

## Possible diagnoses other than autism spectrum disorder:

### Intellectual Disability (ID)/Global Developmental Delay

- Learn at a slower rate than expected
- Thinking and everyday life skills are delayed
- Movements like children with autism, such as hand flapping

### Speech/Language Disorders

- Delays in understanding of words and/or talking
- Trouble saying words right
- Problems doing tasks that use words
- Do better on visual tasks, such as puzzles
- Struggle in social settings needing words

### Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

- Problems paying attention, staying still, and waiting
- Difficulty playing with others
- Over-reacts to sensory input like children with autism.

### Disruptive Behavior Disorder/ Oppositional Defiant Disorder

- Trouble doing what they are told
- Hit or do other dangerous or harmful things
- Difficulty playing with others

### Anxiety Disorders

- Too much worry or fear
- Compulsive or rigid
- Shyness or avoiding others
- Refuses to do something they find scary

### Nonverbal Learning Disorder (NVLD)

- Good at doing tasks that use words, but trouble with visual tasks such as puzzles
- Social problems because reading social cues and body language are visual tasks
- Good vocabulary skills, which can make them sound unusual

### Social Communication Disorder

- Social problems are similar to those of children with autism
- Have good nonverbal communication and few or no restricted or repetitive behaviors.
- Can be diagnosed when autism spectrum disorder does not fit. Cannot be diagnosed with this and autism spectrum disorder.

## How to reach us

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