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PTA 1010

Autism:

Pathology & Physical Therapy

**Autistic disorder (or *autism*):** Is a childhood disorder characterized by significant impairment in social interactions and communication and by restricted patterns of behavior, interest, and activities.

**Origins of Autism**

* 1930s & 1940s- Specific D/O with Limited Range and Type of Emotions
* Environmental- Parents not Providing Sufficient Support
* 1950s & 1960s- Psychologist Harry Harlow & Baby monkeys
* DSM-IV-TR/ PDD- Must meet 6 out of 12.



**Autism:** is a complex neurobiological disorder that interferes with normal development in language, social interaction and behavior. The technical term, autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), refers to a group of developmental disorders that are usually first diagnosed in early childhood and include: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger’s syndrome. It also includes two rare disorders, Rett disorder and childhood disintegrative disorder (SARRC).



**Physical Therapy: Pediatrics**



**Screening:** Distinguish comparative behaviors.

* Screener
* Denver II Development
* Neurodevelopmental
* Bayley Infant

**Assessment:** Determining therapeutic service needs.

* Pediatric Evaluation of Disability
* Motor Proficiency
* Bayley Scales of Infant & Toddler
* Development III

**Physical Therapy in Treating Autism**

* Motor function & developmental delay
* Respiratory control
* Balance & coordination deficits
* Misalignments in musculoskeletal system
* Developing fitness programs

Research

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