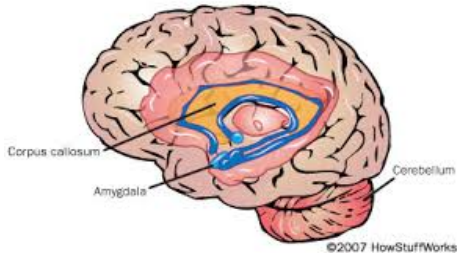


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Red Stream

You and the world

### “Autism” Blog #1



Hello, my name is Daouda Njie. I attend Science Leadership Academy. For the second quarter benchmark, we researched about a recent issue. My issue is about Autism and how it affects how kids with autism learn. Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD is a disorder that causes problems with social interactions, repetitive behaviors, and verbal or nonverbal communications. Autism has been found in one out of

eighty eight children in the USA, this statistics has risen since forty years ago. Boys are more likely to have Autism one out of fifty four boys will be diagnosed with a form of Autism and, one out of two hundred fifty two girls will be diagnosed with Autism. Autism can occur from brain mutation's in early stages of brain development, and symptoms usually occur at age three. Autism affects how information in the brain is processed by changing how their nerve cells and synapses are connected. It can vary between the severity of the disorder. This can make learning for kids with autism harder for kids.

The man who first introduced autism in infants was a man named Hans Asperger an Austrian Pediatrician he studied mental disorders in children. In 1944 he published a definition of Autistic Psychopathy. He found that in the four boys they had the same pattern of behavior and abilities. They all had a lack of empathy, low ability to make friendships, one sided conversations, and had clumsy movements. The name Aspergers was named after him as a form of Autism. Another person that helped classify Autism was Leo Kanner an american psychiatrist and physician born in Austria-Hungaria. In 1943 with Hans Asperger work he created a paper called "Autistic Disturbances of Affective Contact". Which gives us most of the information on Autism.

This topic was interesting to me because I have witnessed many people with autism and the way the philadelphia School District accommodates kids with autism by having classes for them to take. In my old school, I noticed that the kids with autism were just given work and then left alone. I think that the teachers should give more effort in helping them with interacting with their classmates. When I a child has Asperger they might not be so willing to go and meet people the teachers should be the one helping them adjust to their surroundings .



Education for kids with autism became mandatory when the “All Handicapped Children Act” was created in 1975. Most schools offer study skills which help them with social skills. Many kids with autism are very intelligent but have problem with making friends and communicating with others. School districts should talk to

parents and also inform teacher's, and parent's on how to help children with autism.

Methods used for kids with autism is to send them to a public school and have them in a class with average students. Each child that attends a public school must have an Individualized Educational Plan with specific goals that they will try to be reached. Parents should also take steps for them helping learn in a comfortable environment. They need to feel secure. Each child has different needs and some kids might not be as verbal as others so parents and teachers need to establish an understanding of their child. There are programs for kids with autism to take the parents need to just look for benefits they can have.

The some others ways for children to learn were given on [About.com Autism Spectrum Disorder](http://About.com/Autism/SpectrumDisorder):

“Mainstreaming? Inclusion? Special needs classes? Public school? Private school? Which is best for your child? The answer, of course, is -- it all depends! Some questions to consider as you begin thinking about your options are:

- Is your autistic child verbal and engaged?
- How are her academic skills?
- Can he handle large groups?
- Does she do well with a lot of sensory input?
- Does he have difficulties with focus?”

All of these ways may affect just how well your child progresses but you have to know your child. One problem that might also arise is that sometimes the teachers have never worked with a student with autism. For a child with autism to learn the best they possible can, it all depends on how well people try to help the child.