

## Autism Awareness month.

April is Autism Awareness month. Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, respond to surroundings, and form relationships with others. Autism affects people of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It also affects people of all different ages. Early recognition, as well as behavioral, educational, and family therapies may reduce symptoms and support development and learning. Autism is not something that goes away, but something that people diagnosed with learn to live with.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Autism affects 1 out of every 54 children in the United States today.

We know that there is not one autism but many subtypes, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Autism is a spectrum disorder that can range from High functioning to severe; each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Some people with Autism may require significant support in their daily lives, while others may need less support and, in some cases, live entirely independently.

Signs of Autism usually appear by age 2 or 3. Some development delays can appear even earlier, and often, it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months. Research shows that early intervention leads to positive outcomes later in life for people with autism.



If you have a child with Autism you know what a gift they bring to your family. It is important that we all celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism around the world. Please join me this month in Prayer and celebration of children with Autism.