

Handout #1 DSM V Medical Model Definition of Autism vs. Social Model Autistic Strength-Based Definition of Autism

DSM V: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A Developmental Disorder based on how other people observe and experience the Autistic person with limited measures of how Autistic person experiences autism (This is a brief overview)

- *Persistent deficits in social communication* and social interaction across multiple contexts, including social emotional reciprocity, non verbal communication, and relationships
- *Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior which can include:*
 - ▶ Repetitive movements or STIMS (self-stimulatory behaviors)
 - ▶ Sensory challenges
 - ▶ Inflexible, fixated, sameness
 - ▶ Behavior challenges
- With or without intellectual impairment
- With or without language impairment
- There are no subtypes, all prior dx are now Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Levels are not about functioning, but about support needed.

Grossmann, Dr. Rami. The DSM V Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) | Childbrain, Retrieved April 15, 2021, from <http://www.childbrain.com/services/autism/the-dsm-v-criteria-for-autism-spectrum-disorder-asd/>

Autistic Description of Autism: A Neurological Difference that is equally valid to neuronormative ways of being and is disabling because world is set up for neuronormative people (social model of disability and strength based definition)

- Differences in social communication and social interaction
 - May prefer parallel activities or only small amounts of social interaction
 - Research demonstrates communication between Autistics is similar to communication between neuronormative people.
 - May use AAC to communicate
 - Loves to communicate about special interests (**SPIN**)
 - Behavior is communication
 - Some “deficits” mirror trauma-based deficits and could be due to trauma of living in a world not made for us
- Passionate about things they are interested and research them intensely. Feels things more intensely.
- Self-Stimulatory Behavior (**STIMS**) are normal across people, autistic people just do them more as they help regulate nervous system.
- Sameness is a coping tool to manage anxiety in an intense world. Intense world theory explains autistic experience.
- Sensory differences are key feature of autism
- Autism does not equal their co-morbid
- Support needed varies even within same day

Geek, T. (2020, October 31). A Neurodiversity Paradigm Breakdown of the DSM-5 Criteria for . Retrieved April 15, 2021, from <https://autitraumageek.medium.com/a-neurodiversity-paradigm-breakdown-of-the-dsm-criteria-for-autism-bb524291298b>

Lowry, M. (2021, February 23). Strength Based ASD Diagnostic Criteria. Retrieved April 16, 2021, from https://www.facebook.com/PeaceGiveBlog/photos/a.107008584056482/440904734000197/?type=3&eid=ARBk1bYjWGIejaAOaQJY8pl6LATuKppms2SxtiwZ0fjW0P9qfnQrnY9TodOW4Nw2bOMFVrQmyJsYw3_L