Lindner Center of HOPE WHealth

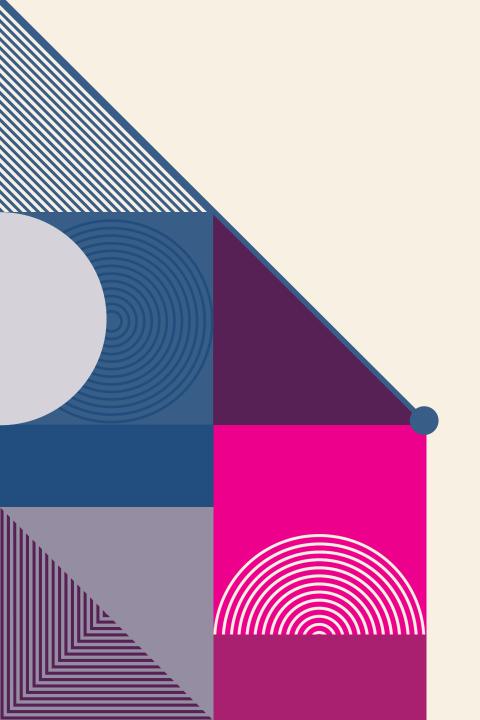
Is it Autism?

Community Education Day 2024

IS IT AUTISM?

Tracy S. Cummings, MD Elisha Eveleigh-Clipson, PhD





AGENDA

- Explore some common myths about Autism Spectrum
 Disorder (ASD)
- 2. Review diagnostic criteria for ASD
- 3. Discuss the role of psychological testing for ASD





COMMON ASD MYTHS



MYTH #1

Autism is caused by vaccines

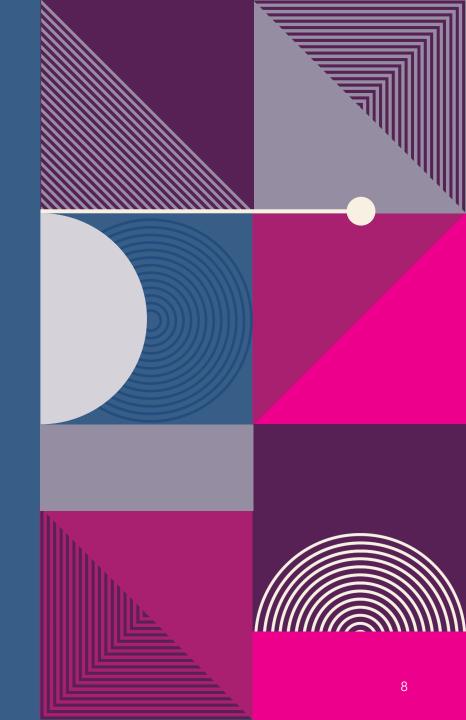






MYTH #4

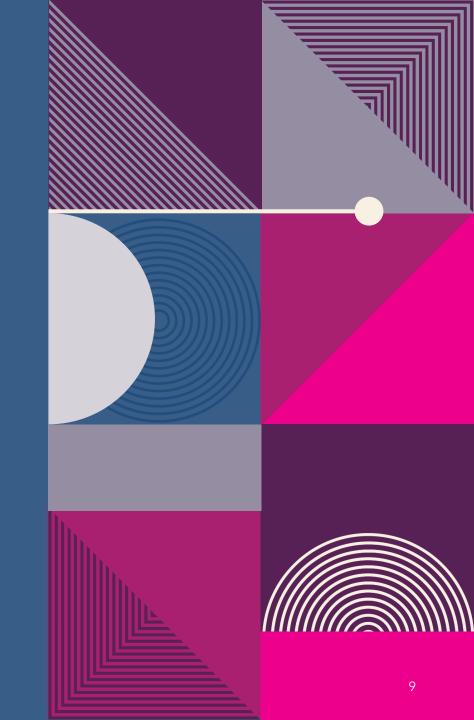
People with ASD cannot engage in meaningful relationships





MYTH #5

Kids with an ASD diagnosis will never be independent



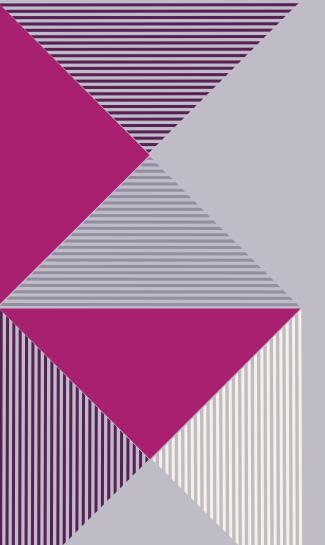


ON THE SPECTRUM

THEORY

- Neurodivergent
- Neuroatypical



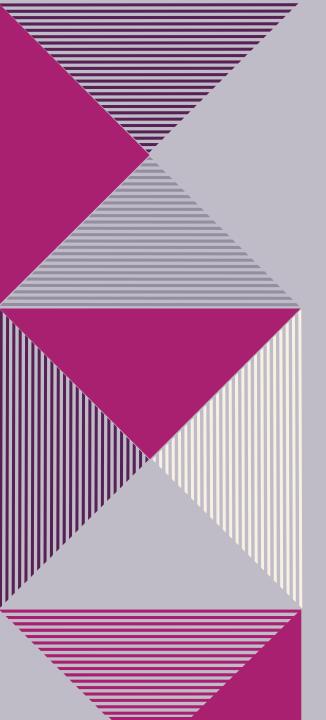




DSM-5 DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR ASD

- A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interactions across multiple contexts
 - Social-emotional reciprocity
 - Non-verbal cues
 - Interpersonal connection

- B. Restrictive/repetitive patterns of behavior or interests (2+)
- Stereotypies, echolalia
- Lack of flexibility
- Fixated interests
- Hyper- or Hyposensitive to sensory input





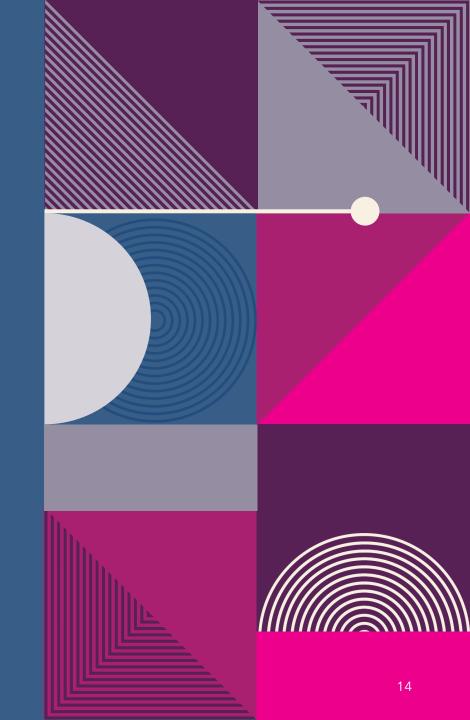
DSM-5 DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR ASD

- Level 1: "Requiring support"
 - o noticeable impairment in social communication and functioning
- Level 2: "Requiring substantial support"
 - o marked deficits, clear impairments even with support
- Level 3: "Requiring very substantial support"
 - o severe deficits, significant interference in all spheres



THE TESTING PROCESS

- What to expect
 - The overall process
 - What do we measure?
 - Who's involved?







THE ROLE OF TESTING

- Who may benefit from testing?
- Why get testing?
 - Children
 - Adolescents and adults



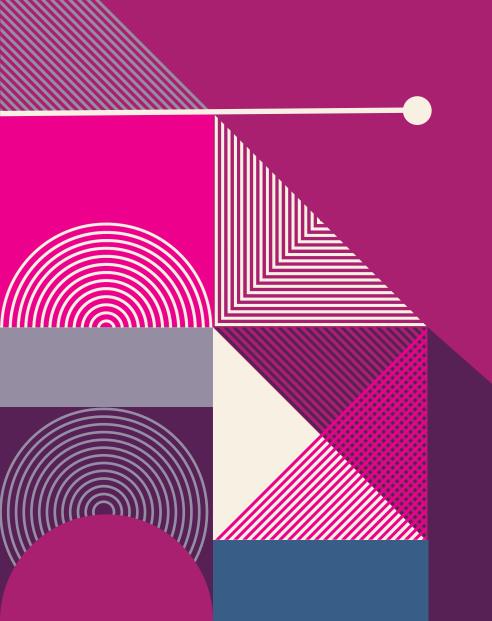




WHAT ELSE MIGHT IT BE?

- Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders and OCD
- Behavioral concerns
- Depression
- Sensory processing difficulty
- "Overcontrolled" personal traits





Q & A



THANK YOU



