



Autism Society of America

Oakland County Chapter

About Autism:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that nationally as many as 1 in 150 children born today will be affected by autism spectrum disorders. *

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a group of developmental disabilities defined by significant impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. Many people with ASD also have unusual ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to different sensations. The thinking and learning abilities of people with ASD can vary – from gifted to severely challenged. The characteristics of ASD begin before the age of 3 and last throughout a person's life. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups and is four times more likely to occur in boys than girls. The CDC campaign [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#) is a fantastic resource at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/ActEarly/>.

Membership:

The Oakland County chapter was founded in 1985 by a group of concerned parents. Today it is one of over 200 chapters of the Autism Society of America (ASA). The ASA is the oldest autism advocacy group in the country. The Oakland County chapter membership is open to all those who care about people with autism. The Board of Directors is a volunteer body elected by the membership. To learn more, go to the website at www.asaoakland.org.

Mission:

To advocate for meaningful participation in all aspects of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families who reside in Oakland County, Michigan.

*Centers for Disease Control. (2007). Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(SS-1). Retrieved January 4, 2008 from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5601.pdf>