

## Local Support

### Autism Society of Larimer County

The ASLC Family/Community Support Group meets every first Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

at Respite Care Inc. 6203 S. Lemay Avenue in Fort Collins.

**FREE CHILD CARE:** Children will be tended to by trained Respite Care Inc. staff during the meeting times. In order to have adequate Respite staff available, paper work and reservations must be completed at least **1 week prior to meeting date**. Please contact leann@respitcareinc.org at make arrangements. Space is limited so call ahead for reservations 207-9435.

**\*REQUIREMENTS:** All children must be registered with Respite Center 1 week prior to meeting time. A link to the registration packet is provided at [www.autismlarimer.org](http://www.autismlarimer.org). Once paper work (no cost) is filled out families may use the ASLC Family Support Group Child care free of charge. We ask families to please plan ahead and make reservations (and take care of paper work) at **least 1 week in advance of meeting date**. For more information about sign-up procedures please call 207-9435 or email Leann@respitcareinc.org

### A-Team Thompson School District

#### Autism/Asperger's Parent/Community Group

Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month during the school year from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Thompson Administration Building. Meetings are in room 128 located on the east side of the building next to the patio entrance. No meeting in December. May meeting may be at a different location and time. 800 South Taft Hill Road, Loveland  
Contact: Margi Scoufis 970-613-6771  
scoufism@thompson.k12.co.us

### D.I.S.H.

#### (Dietary Intervention Support and Hope)

Open to anyone who is inquiring, starting out or is a veteran of the gluten-free, casein-free diet and biomedical interventions. Contact: Phyllis Zimmerman, 970-206-4979 or dzerman2@yahoo.com

### ASD/PDD Support Group

#### Greeley

Meets monthly @ Greeley Recreation Center. Contact Susan @ 970-356-7314 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

*Note: Due to occasional changes in scheduling, we recommend you confirm meeting dates with the contact listed before attending a support group.*

### Larimer County on-line Support Group

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/FortCollinsAspergers\\_Autism](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/FortCollinsAspergers_Autism)

## Web Sites

### **Autism Society of Larimer County**

[www.autismlarimer.org](http://www.autismlarimer.org)

### **Autism Society of America**

[www.Autism-society.org](http://www.Autism-society.org)

### **Autism Society of Colorado**

[www.autismcolorado.org](http://www.autismcolorado.org)

### **Autism Info—many links**

[www.autism-info.com](http://www.autism-info.com)

### **ARC Colorado - Advocacy Services**

[www.thearcofco.org](http://www.thearcofco.org)

### **Arc of Larimer County—Local Advocacy**

[www.arclc.org](http://www.arclc.org)

### **Foothills Gateway — CCB**

[www.foothillsgateway.org](http://www.foothillsgateway.org)

### **Parent to Parent**

[www.p2p-co.org](http://www.p2p-co.org)

### **Family Voices**

[www.familyvoicesco.org](http://www.familyvoicesco.org)

## For more Information...

### **Autism Society of Larimer County**

Phone: 970-377-9640

Email: [aslc@autismlarimer.org](mailto:aslc@autismlarimer.org)

Website: [www.autismlarimer.org](http://www.autismlarimer.org)

# Larimer County

# Autism Society



## Our Mission

The mission of the Autism Society of Larimer County is to serve as a resource for individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder by providing information, advocacy, public awareness activities and promoting the development of services and resources.

For more information contact:  
Autism Society of Larimer County  
Phone: 970-377-9640  
Email: [aslc@autismlarimer.org](mailto:aslc@autismlarimer.org)  
Website: [www.autismlarimer.org](http://www.autismlarimer.org)

# What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Autism is not a mental illness but a complex developmental disability that appears during the first three years of life. The results of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain and its associated behaviors has been estimated to occur in as many as one in every 150 children born in the (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007). It is four times more prevalent in boys than girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries. Family income, lifestyle, and educational levels do not affect the chance of autism's occurrence.



*Autism is found through the world in families of racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.*

ASD affects a person's ability to communicate, understand language, play, and interact with others. It is a behavioral syndrome, which means that its definition is based on patterns of behaviors that a person exhibits.



*One out of every 150 children born in the US has autism.*

Individuals with autism and ASD vary widely in ability and personality. Individuals can exhibit severe mental retardation or be extremely gifted in their intellectual and academic accomplishments. While many individuals prefer isolation and tend to withdraw from social contact, others show high levels of affection and enjoyment in social situations. Some people with autism appear lethargic and slow to respond, but others appear to be very active and seem to interact constantly with preferred aspects of their environment.

# Early Signs

## Communication:

- No babbling by 12 months
- No single words by 16 months
- No two-word sentences by 24 months.
- Does not respond to his/her name.
- Does not point or wave goodbye.
- Cannot tell you what he/she wants.
- Has delayed or odd language.
- Does not follow directions.
- Appears deaf at times
- Has a loss of language.



## Social:

- Prefers to play alone.
- Isn't interested in other children.
- Does not smile socially.
- Has poor eye contact.

*While people with autism share common characteristics-each person is unique with their own strengths and challenges.*

## Behavioral:

- Lines things up excessively.
- Displays unusual play or attachment to toys.
- Has odd movements such as hand flapping, spinning, toe walking . . .
- Is overly sensitive to textures, sounds . .
- Has unusually anxiety levels.
- Displays atypical skills.
- Has restrictive and repetitive behavior.

***Please contact your pediatrician if you suspect your child may have ASD.***

# Who is the Autism Society of Larimer County (ASLC)?

Founded in 2006 by a group of parents and professionals, the ASLC is a local chapter of the Autism Society of America, servicing the ASD community in Larimer County. Comprised of volunteers, our organization strives to:

## Provide information by

- Establishing and maintaining a lending library;
- Publishing a periodic newsletter;
- Establishing and maintaining a web site to include resources information and a calendar of local events;
- Conducting periodic meetings, providing support, and informational presentations

## Advocate by:

- Disseminating information regarding legislative issues affecting person with ASD;
- Collaboration with the local school systems and local disability organizations.

## Promote public awareness by:

Participating in events and activities sponsored by local disability organizations;  
Utilizing the local media to announce activities;  
Presenting on ASD to various segments of the community.

## Develop services and resources by:

- Securing grants and donations to fund special programs;
- Working with local businesses to create recreation opportunities;
- Including local educators and resource providers in the formation of programs.