

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day Can you recognize the signs?

Laurel Behaviour Support Services (LBSS) is specialized in supporting individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder/developmental disabilities and the families who care for them.

Current best practices and evidence based teaching methods guide our services. Each program is delivered or overseen by a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst/Clinical Director:

- Early Intensive Behaviour Intervention (EIBI) (up to age 6)
- Behaviour support for school aged children (ages 6-18)
- Adult services individuals 19 years of age or over.

The Triple P® Positive Parenting Program is included with our behaviour consultation service at no additional charge.

For more information, call (604) 299-4001 email autismsupport@posabilities.ca or visit www.laurel.mapcl.org.

Behaviour consultation is offered by posAbilities, a not-for-profit community living organization in British Columbia.

Today, it is estimated that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how the brain's functions. The first signs typically appear before a child is three years of age. Children diagnosed with autism often:

- Find social interaction difficult.
- Have problems with verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Demonstrate restrictive and repetitive behavior.
- Have a limited set of interests and activities.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders which includes Asperger's Syndrome, Rett Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

Autism affects boys four times more often than girls, individuals of all races and in all geographic regions. The condition has a large impact on children, their families, communities and societies. The prevalence is currently rising in many countries around the world, and social services are strained to meet the increasing demand.

In 2007, the United Nations declared April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day, to increase and develop world knowledge of autism, and to promote early identification and intervention. The hope is that autism organizations from around the world will work together to help millions of individuals affected by the condition.

Although we do not know what causes autism, we do know that evidence based treatments such as Applied Behaviour Analysis can significantly improve an individual's ability to gain new skills and to reach their fullest potential.

To learn more about autism and community support services, visit:

ACT - Autism Community Training

<http://www.actcommunity.net/>

Autism Society of BC

<http://www.autismbc.ca>

Autism Speaks

<http://www.autismspeaks.ca>

Ministry of Children and Family Development

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/index.htm



posAbilities
Empowering people with developmental disabilities