

# The Facts About Autism & Vaccines



## What is Autism?

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation.

**The Autism experience is different for everyone.**



## Why has the prevalence of Autism increased?

The rise in prevalence—**from 1 in 36 in 2023 to 1 in 31 in 2025**—may reflect several factors including greater awareness, improved screening and diagnostics – especially in communities that were previously underrepresented. **This reflects diagnostic progress and a need for more science-based research.**



## What causes Autism?

**There is not a singular cause of Autism**, however the scientific community agrees that it is typically caused by genetic, biological and environmental factors.



## What does research say about vaccines and Autism?

**Vaccines do not cause Autism. Vaccines save lives.**

**Numerous large-scale studies** involving millions of children worldwide have found **no evidence to support any connection between vaccines**, including the MMR vaccine, and Autism.



## If vaccines aren't linked to Autism, why did my loved one regress around 18 months old?

Autism is a highly genetic condition. **Autism genes influence how the brain develops beginning in the prenatal period, long before a child receives vaccines.** While the exact reasons for this typical timeframe of regression are not fully understood, there are typically earlier signs and characteristics of Autism before the 18 month mark. More research is needed, however **some studies indicate that rapid brain development during this period, genetic predispositions, and potential environmental influences, likely from the prenatal period, play a role in regressive traits.**



## The threat of vaccine misinformation is real.

**Vaccines are a critical part of keeping our schools and communities safe and our economies functioning.** It is important to support programs that make vaccines more accessible to everyone.



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