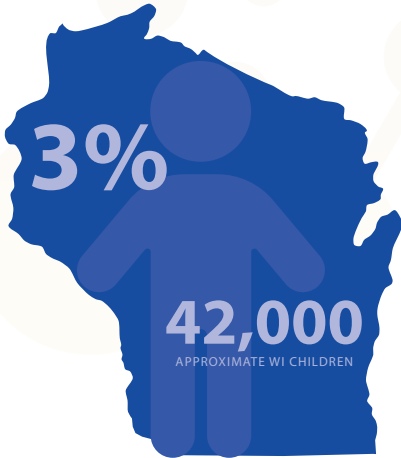


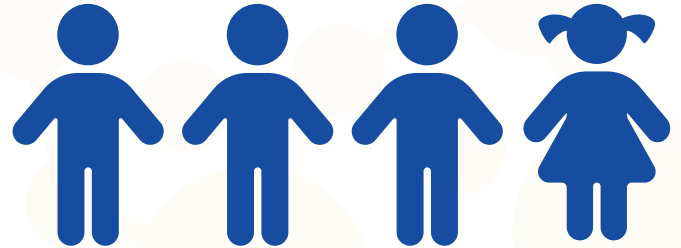


# AUTISM

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that some children are born with. It affects a person's ability to communicate and connect socially.



About 3% of Wisconsin children are diagnosed with autism.



Boys are more than 3x as likely as girls to be diagnosed with autism.

## AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Autism is **on a spectrum** so the experience differs for each individual.

Autism is varied so there is a **range of support needs**, from minimal to substantial support.

Autism may be **diagnosed at any age**, from early childhood to adulthood.

## DID YOU KNOW ...

**Autism comes with unique talents and unique challenges.**

- Children with autism can have exceptional memory, attention to detail, academic and artistic talents. But they are also more likely to experience loneliness than other children.

**Early identification is linked to better long-term outcomes.**

- In Wisconsin, the majority of kids with autism are diagnosed by 4 years of age. Early identification allows caregivers and educators to tailor experiences and environments to the child's needs.



Parents can track their child's developmental milestones up to age 5 using illustrated checklists in the CDC's [Milestones Tracker](#) app.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ▶ Contact [Wisconsin Wayfinder](#) to get connected to supports and services available to families.
- ▶ Explore OCMH [tools](#), find [supportive family resources](#), and [connect with peers](#).



Wisconsin Office of  
**Children's**  
Mental Health

[children.wi.gov](http://children.wi.gov)