

History of autism spectrum syndrome

[Education](#), [Special Education](#)



History of Autism Spectrum Syndrome: In 1908, autism or ASD is a word which was used to characterize a person with schizophrenia that is especially socially disabled and self-absorbed. In 1943, Leo Kanner, M. D.

, a child psychiatrist noticed that there are children who displayed high intelligence. But these children were drawn to being alone and resist change, preferring sameness. Later on, Kanner named the condition “early infantile autism.” Other than Early Infantile Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome was also another type of autism described by a German scientist, Hans Asperger, in the year 1944. According to Asperger, this type of autism is a milder form. He reported that there are children with high intelligence but showed social awkwardness and self-absorbed characteristics.

The cause of ASD back then were unknown and many claims to how it develop rose. One of which was the concept of “refrigerator mothers” in 1967. Psychologist Bruno Bettelheim suggested that if a parent doesn’t show affection to the child as it develops, then ASD will be contracted.

Psychoanalytic work were done to people with autism which looked only into their life experiences. In 1980, Infantile Autism was listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Also, DSM disassociated ASD to childhood schizophrenia. Later on, Infantile Autism was replaced with Autism Disorder by DSM in 1987, the definition together with the checklist of diagnostic criteria were now included. In the same year, UCLA psychologist Ivar Lovaas, Ph.

D., suggested that with intensive behavior therapy, people with autism can grow and develop in a way that benefits them. In 1991, the federal

government puts autism in a special education category. Offering children special care and services. From 1998-2000, people feared that vaccines like MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccine can cause autism. But later on, this claim was disproven.

In 2013, DSM now includes all types of autism into one umbrella, Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD.