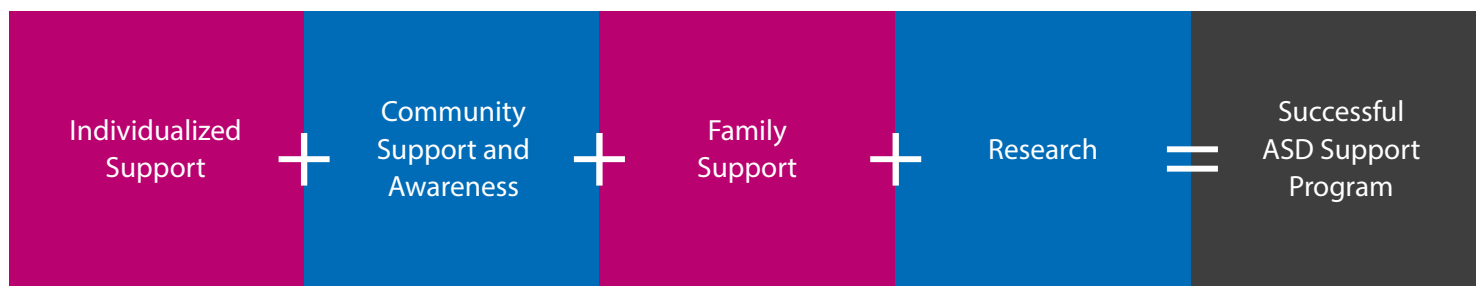


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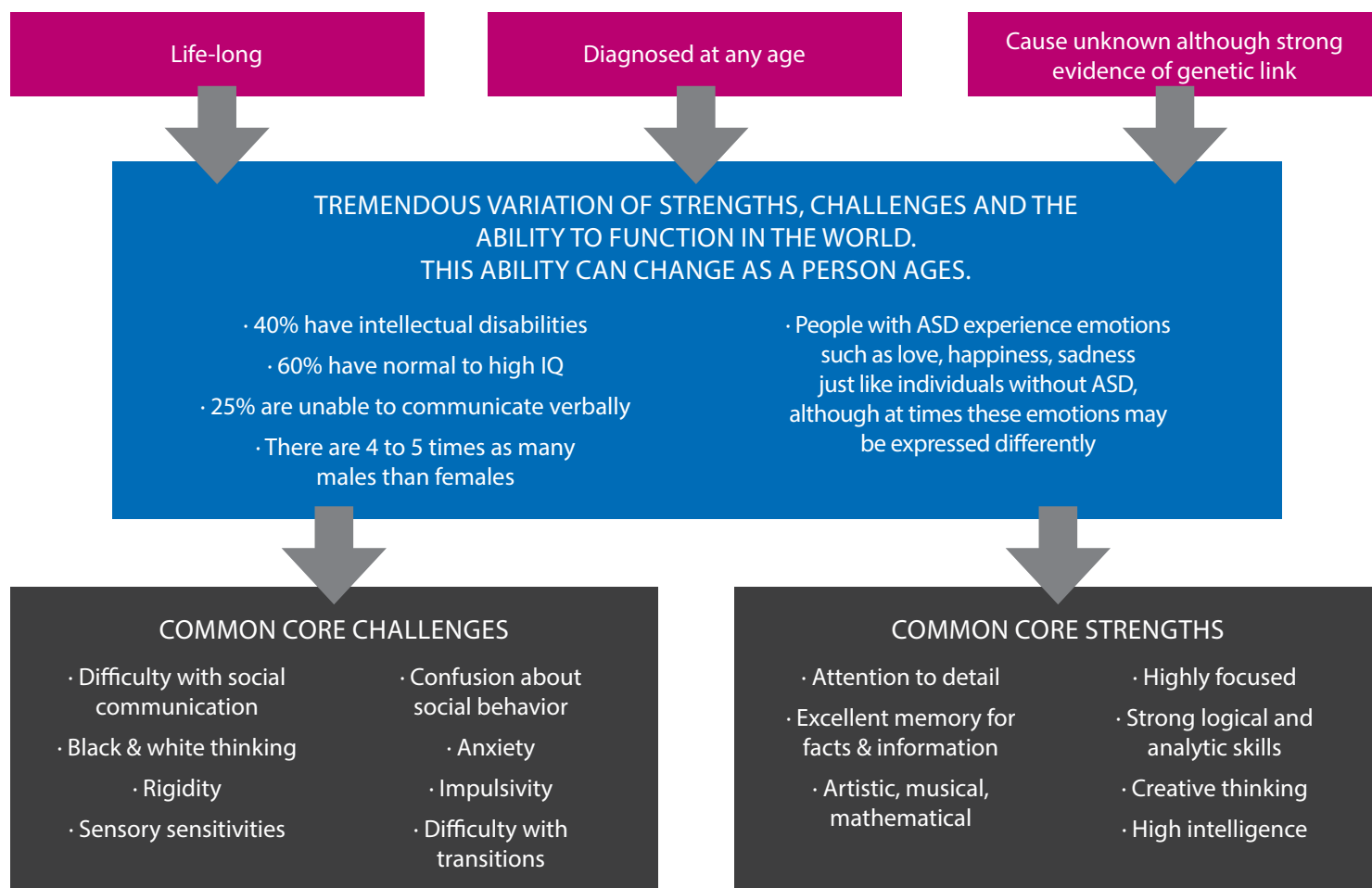
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD): A Guide to High Impact Investments



It is estimated that one in 68 children have ASD. The diagnosis of ASD has more than doubled over the last 10 years.*

ASD is a neurologically based developmental disability:



*Estimates from the CDC's Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network

Strong ASD Programs Provide:

INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT FOR THE PERSON WITH ASD:

To understand the person within his or her environment and individualize support including environmental modifications.

OTHER POSSIBLE THERAPIES AND INTERVENTIONS INCLUDE: Medication, CBT (Cognitive Behavior Therapy), ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis), Social Groups, Social skills groups, Technology, Speech therapy, Occupations therapy, Independent Living support, Transition support, Coaching, Employment assistance

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND AWARENESS:

To educate the community and especially those who interact with those with ASD to increase the probability of a successful life.

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES INCLUDE: Teacher training, Community Education, Employers, Colleges, Health care provider training

PARENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT:

To educate teachers and other community members to increase the probability of a successful life for people with ASD.

SUPPORT INCLUDES: Information and help locating resources, Parent education, Emotional support, Respite care, Support for siblings, Support for grandparents

RESEARCH:

To understand more about ASD including the causes and the efficacy of services and interventions

The best research, services and programs address the varied needs of people with ASD and ensure that individuals are involved in decisions that impact their lives. All services and supports should be delivered in an atmosphere of validation, dignity and respect.

How You Can Help:

Support organizations that research into both the causes of ASD and the most effective methods of support. Consider:

- Does the research address ASD issues you consider important?
- Does the organization employ solid, respected researchers with a proven track record in the field?
- Is the researcher connected to the service provider community?

Support organizations that provide services to individuals and families. Consider:

- Is the organization respectful and supportive of families and those with ASD?
- Is staff properly trained and experienced in the field of ASD?
- Does the organization support a diverse population with respect of language, ethnicity, gender and cultural background?
- Is the organization made up of creative thinkers who look at out-of-the box customized support?
- Are there metrics that show their interventions and support have an impact?

Support organizations that assist individuals during critical life transitions such as:

- Moving to post-secondary education or training
- Moving to the world of work or meaningful daily activities
- Moving to independent or supported living
- Planning for successful community engagement

For more information please visit:

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The Heller School
FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Prepared in Partnership with the Asperger/Autism Network (aane.org)

+ The Sillerman Center draws upon scholarship and practitioner experience to engage and inform members of the philanthropic community committed to moving social justice work forward.