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Making connection with an autistic brain



What will we do?

- Introduction
- Neuroscience
- Application
- Care
- Questions



A definition

With onset in the first years of life, autism presents as a disorder of profound social disconnect rooted in early brain development. A child with autism may appear unaware of his surroundings. He may also fail to respond to the sights and sounds of a social world. Often, with limited speech and language skills, the child follows a different development pattern compared to other children in the same age group. He has difficulty playing with other children and making friends. Alone, the child engages in restricted, repetitive behaviour that is hard to understand.



DSM-V ASD Criteria (299.00)

- B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, as manifested by at least two of the following, currently or by history (Not Exhaustive).
 - 1. Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech (e.g., simple motor stereotypes, lining up toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases).
 - 2. Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior. (e.g., extreme distress at small changes, difficulties with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, need to take same route or eat same food every day).
 - 3. Highly Restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus (e.g., strong attachment to or preoccupation with unusual objects, excessively circumscribed or perseverative interests).
 - 4. Hyper- or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g., apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement.

Parts of the Brain Affected by Autism

Cerebral Cortex:

A thin layer of gray matter on the surface of the cerebral hemispheres. Two thirds of this area is deep in the tissues and folds. This area of the brain is responsible for higher mental functions, general movement, perception and behavioral reactions.

Amygdala:

This is responsible for all emotional responses including aggressive behavior.

Hippocampus:

This makes it possible to remember new information and recent events.

Brain Stem:

The Brain Stem is located in front of the cerebellum and serves as a relay station, passing messages between various parts of the body and the cerebral cortex. It controls the primitive funtions of the body essential to survival including breathing and heartt rate.

Basal Ganglia:

This is gray masses deep witin the cerebral hemisphere that connectes the cerebrum and the cerebellum. It helps regulate automatic movement.

Corpus Callosum:

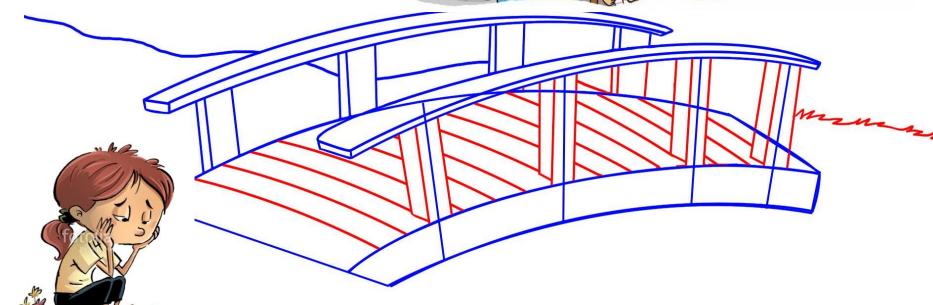
This consists of closely packed bundles of fibers that connect the right and left hemispheres of the brain and allows them to communicate with one another.

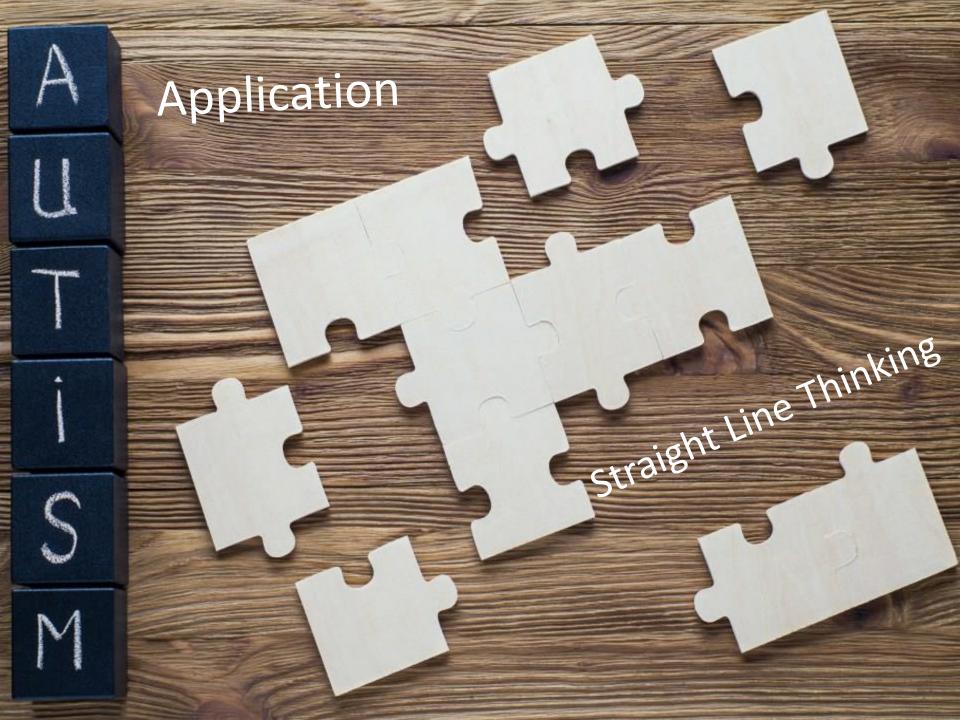
Cerebellum:

This is located at the back of the brain, It fine tunes motor activity, regulates balance, body movements, coordination and the muscles used for speaking.

What needs to happen here and why?

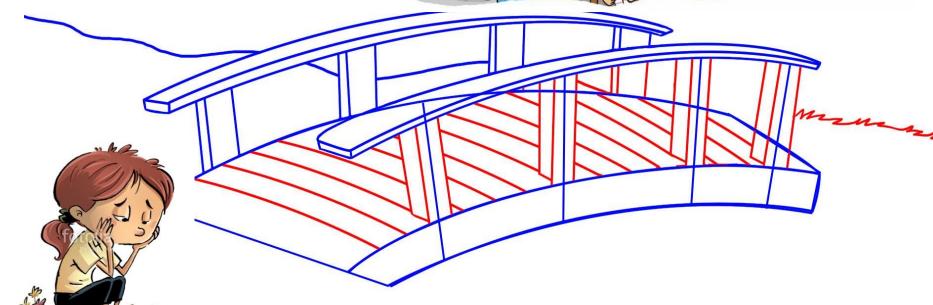






What needs to happen here and why?





Care

- Law
- Supervision
- Realism
- Balance







Helpful articles

- Elsevier: Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
- Simon Baron-Cohen
- Mindspec.org

https://autismum.com/2012/05/07/10-tips-on-how-to-communicate-with-autistic-people/

