

## Medical Diagnosis

- Autism is a specific medical disorder.
- Administered by a licensed physician, psychologist, or diagnostic team.
- Criteria determined by the American Psychiatric Association under the DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - 5th edition).
- Required for insurance purposes and to receive state/federal benefits.
- Assessment for ages as young as 12 months.

# AUTISM:

## Medical Diagnosis VS. Educational Determination

## Educational Determination

- Autism is a disability category.
- Administered by an educational diagnostic team.
- Follows federal law: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- The disability must impact the education of the person and determines special education eligibility.
- *A medical diagnosis may be considered, but is not required to be accepted.*