

**Common Abbreviations, Definitions, Slang and Idioms Used in Autism**

AAC	Assistive Augmentative Communication	NIMH	National Institute of Mental Health
AAANE	Asperger's Association of New England	NINDS	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis	NJCOSAC	New Jersey Center for Outreach & Services for the Autism Community
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavioral Therapy	NOD	Not Otherwise Diagnosed
ABC	Autism Behavior Checklist	NORD	National Organization for Rare Disorders
ABI	Adaptive Behavior Inventory	NOREP	Notice of Recommended Educational Placement
ABLE	Adult Basic Literacy Education	NOS	Not Otherwise Specified (can also be seen as Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS))
ABLIS	Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills Test	NPND	National Parent Network on Disabilities

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	NT	Neurologically Typical or Neurotypical
AD	Attachment Disorder	NVLD	Non-Verbal Learning Disability
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	NYD	Not Yet Diagnosed (informal usage)
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	OAAC	Office of Advocacy for Autistic Children.
ADOS	Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale	OASIS	Online Asperger's Syndrome Information and Support ( <a href="http://aspergersyndrome.org">aspergersyndrome.org</a> )
AIT	Advanced Individual Training	OBRA	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
AIT	Auditory Integration Therapy	OCB	Obsessive Compulsive Behavior
AMA	American Medical Association	OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

APD	Auditory Processing Disorder	OCD	Office of Child Development
APE	Adaptive Physical Education	ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
ARC	Association of Retarded Citizens	OCR	Office of Civil Rights



ARI	Autism Research Institute	OVR	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
ARRI	Autism Research Review International, Quarterly publication from the ARI	OCYF	Office of Children, Youth and Families
AS	Asperger's Syndrome (DSM IV 299.80) - Previous separate subtype of autism in the DSM-IV. - Asperger's Syndrome currently falls under Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the DSM V.	ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
AS	Autistic Spectrum	OHI	Other Health Impairment
ASA	Autism Society of America	OIM	Office of Income Maintenance (state government office)

ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	OMHSAS	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
ASHA	American Speech & Hearing Association	ORS	Office of Rehabilitation Services
ASL	American Sign Language	OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
ASPEN	Asperger Syndrome Parent Education Network	OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
ASPEN of New Jersey	(not affiliated with ASPEN of America)	OSP	Office of Social Programs
ASPIE	A person with Asperger's Syndrome (friendly)	OT	Occupational Therapist or Therapy
AUTIE	A person with Autism (friendly)	P&A	Protection & Advocacy
BBB	Blood Brain Barrier	PA	Parents' Auxiliary

BBRS	Burks' Behavior Rating Scale	PANDAS	Pediatric Autoimmune Neurological Disorder Associated with Strep.
BCBA	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst	Part B	References parts of IDEA which covers education of ages 3-22, ie. school system
BD	Behavioral Disorder	Part C	References parts of IDEA which covers birth to 3; Early intervention
BD/ED	Behavior Disordered Emotionally Disturbed	PCA	Personal Care Assistant



BED BIC	Body Ecology Diet Behavior Improvement Class	PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Previous separate subtype of autism in the DSM-IV. - Currently under Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the DSM-V.
BIP	Behavior Improvement Plan	PDR	Physician's Desk Reference (the most commonly used drug reference. A guide to prescription drugs in the United States.)
BMP	Behavior Management Plan	PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System
BOCES	Board of Cooperative Educational Services	PEN	Parent Education Network

BP	Bi-Polar (formerly called "manic-depressive")	PERS	Personal Emergency Response Systems
BSC	Behavioral Specialist Consultant	PET	Positron Emission Tomography Scan
BSU	Base Service Unit	Pica	(not an abbreviation) The eating of non-food
BSU	Behavioral Services Unit	PKU	Phenylketonuria
CADDRE	Center for Autism & Developmental Disabilities Research & Epidemiology	PL94-142	Public Law 94-142. Education for Handicapped Children Act, Revised in 1990 to become IDEA.
CAO	County Assistance Office	POA	Power of Attorney
CAP	Client Assistance Program administered by the Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services	POHI	Physically or Otherwise Health Impaired
CAPD	Central Auditory Processing Disorder	PPO	Preferred Physician Organization

CARD	Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (used in Florida)	PPO	Preferred Provider Option
CARD	Center for Autism and Related Disorders (used in Maryland and many other states)	PPS	Pupil Personnel Services
CARD	Committee for Admission, Review, Dismissal (used in Texas)	PQ	Performance IQ



CARS Childhood Autism Rating Scale (diagnostic and evaluation tool)	PRT Pivotal Response Training
CASSP Child and Adolescent Service System Program CAT or CT Scan Computer Axial Tomography - a scan using an xray machine linked to a computer that produces a scan in cross sections using iodine (BEWARE if you are allergic to shellfish)	PT Physical Therapist or Therapy
CBH Community Behavioral Health	PTIC Parent Training and Information Center
CCBH Community Care Behavioral Health	PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
CD Conduct Disorder	PUNS Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services

CDC Center for Disease Control and Prevention	PwD People with Disabilities
CF Casein Free	Q&A Question-and-Answer, generally referring to a document format.
CFIDS Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome	QEEG Quantitative ElectroEncephaloGram
CFS Chronic fatigue syndrome	RA Rheumatoid Arthritis
CH.A.D.D. Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder	RDI Relationship Developmental Intervention
CHARGE Childhood Autism Risks from Genetics and the Environment	SAD Seasonal Affective Disorder (aka "Wintertime Depression")
CHAT Checklist for Autism in Toddlers	SBH Severe Behavior Handicap
CI Community Integration	SCD Specific Carbohydrate Diet

CLA Community Living Arrangement	SD School District
CLO Cod Liver Oil	SED Severely Emotionally Disturbed
CMMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	SERRC Special Educational Regional Resource Center



CMS	Children's Medical Services	SI	Sensory Integration
CNS	Central Nervous System	SID	Sensory Integration Dysfunction
COSAC	Center for Outreach and Services for the Autistic Community (New Jersey)	SIB	Self-Injurious Behavior
COTA	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant		
CP	Cerebral Palsy	SIPT	Sensory Integration and Praxis Text
CPEA	Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism	SLP	Speech and Language Pathologist

CPS	Child Protective Services	SM	Selective Mutism
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology (Procedure codes used for insurance billing)	SNT	Special Needs Trust
CSE	Committee for Special Education (called "MDT" in some states)	SNT	SuperNu Thera - by Kirkman Labs is a multi-vitamin that may help with people who have dietary sensitivities. May help manage symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
CST	Child Study Team	Sped	Special Education
CVPD	Central Vision Processing Disorder	SSA	Social Security Administration
DAS	Developmental Apraxia of Speech	SSD	Social Security Disability
DAS	Differential Abilities Scales.	SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
DAC	Disabled Adult Child	SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
DCD	Development Coordination Disorder	SSI	Supplemental Security Income

DD	Department of Disabilities	SSRI	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (class of meds, incl: Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Luvox.)
DD	Developmentally Delayed	STAART	Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment
DD	Developmental Disabilities	STRANS	Survey of Teenage Readiness and Neurodevelopmental Status
DD	Developmental Disorder	TACA	Talk About Curing Autism



DDD Department of Developmental Disabilities	TBI Traumatic Brain Injury
DH Developmentally Handicapped	TEACCH Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Disorders
DHHS Department of Health and Human Services	TEC Transitional Employment Consultant
DMG DiMethylGlycine (or TMG)	TMG TriMethylGlycine (see also DMG)

DOH Department of Health	TMH Trainable Mentally Handicapped
DPT A triple inoculation given to kids: Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus	TOPL Test of Pragmatic Language
DPW Department of Public Welfare	TS Tourette's Syndrome
DR Disability Rights	TS Tuberos Sclerosis
DREDF Disability Rights Education Defense Fund	TSS Therapeutic Support Staff
DS Developmental Services	VAERs Vaccine Adverse Experience Reports (published by FDA)
DS Down's Syndrome	VB Verbal Behavior
DSM Diagnostic Statistical Manual	VE Varying Exceptionalities

DSM-V Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 5th Edition	Voc-Ed Vocational Education
DTT Discrete Trial Training	VQ Verbal IQ
DTVMI Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration	VR Vocational Rehabilitation
DV Domestic Violence	WAIS Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (an IQ test)
DX Diagnosis / Diagnosed	WIIA Work Incentives Initiative Act
EASe Electronic Auditory Stimulation effect	WISC Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (an IQ test)
EBD Emotional Behavioral Disorder	WPPSI Weschler Preschool Primary - testing for under age 6



ECG	ElectroCardioGram	YO	Year Old
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ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education		
ECT	ElectroConvulsive Therapy (electroshock)		
ED	Emotionally Disturbed		
EEG	ElectroEncephaloGram		
EFA	Essential Fatty Acids		
EFD	Executive Functioning Disorder.		
EH	Emotionally Handicapped		
EI	Early Intervention		
EIBI	Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention		

EKG	ElectroCardioGram (Graphing of the heart's electrical activity.)		
EMH	Educable Mentally Handicapped		
EMS	Emergency Medical Services		
EPSDT	Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment Program		
ERIC	Educational Resources Information Center (Online digital library of education and research. Sponsored by the Institution of Education Sciences of the United States Department of Education.)		
ESD	Educational Service District		
ESE	Exceptional Student Education		
ESL	English as a Second Language		

ESY	Extended School Year		
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education		
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions		



FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	
FC	Facilitated Communication	
FDA	Food and Drug Administration	
FDSS	Family Driven Support Services	
FERPA	Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act	

FFP	Federal Financial Participation	
fMRI	Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	
FNS	Fuzzy Neuron Syndrome (associated with FADD)	
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	
FRAX	Fragile X Syndrome	
FSP	Family Support Plan	
FSS	Family Support Services	
GAF	Global Assessment of Functioning scale	

GARS	Gilliam Autism Rating Scale	
GED	General Education Development (a test in place of High School Diploma)	
GFCF	Gluten-free, casein-free diet	
GFCFSF	Gluten-free, casein free, soy-free diet	
GI	Gastrointestinal	
HCBW	Home and Community Based Waiver	
HELP	Hawaii Early Learning Profile Test	
HFA	High Functioning Autism	





HFS	Health Food Store	
HH	Hard of Hearing	
HH	Household	
HI	Hearing Impaired	
HMO	Health Medical Organization	
HSLDA	Home School Legal Defense Organization	
IACC	InterAgency Coordinating Committee	
IBD	Inflammatory Bowel Disease	

IBS	Irritable Bowel Syndrome	
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases 10 <sup>th</sup> edition	
ICF	Intermediate Care Facility	
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	
IEP	Individualized Education Plan	
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan	
IgG	Immunoglobulin G	
IHP	Individualized Habilitation Program	

IME	Independent Medical Examination	
InLv	Independent Living (support group)	
IQ	Intelligence Quotient	
IRB	Institutional Review Board	
IRWE	Impairment-Related Work Expense	
ITM	Interagency Team Meeting	
JADD	Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders	



LD	Learning Disability, Learning Disabled	
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LEA	Local Education Agency	
LKS	Landau Kleffner Syndrome	
LOD	Low Oxalate Diet	
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	
MDD	Major Depressive Disorder	
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team	
MEG	Magnetoencephalogram	
MFC	Marriage and Family Counselor	

MFCC	Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor	
MFE	Multi-Factored Evaluation	
MH	Mental Health	
MH	Mentally Handicapped; Mentally Retarded (IQ less than 70)	
MMR	Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccination	
MR	Mental Retardation ((Now called Intellectual Disorder (ID). Intelligence Quotient (IQ) less than 70))	
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
MSDD	Multi-System Developmental Disorder	

MT	Mobile Therapist	
NACD	National Academy of Child Development	
NBAC	National Bioethics Advisory Commission	
NBD	Neurobiological Disorder	



NICHCY National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities	
NIDS NeuroImmune Deficiency Syndrome	
NIEHS National Institute of Environmental Health Services	
NIH National Institute of Health	

\* Note: the information in this list could become out of date as the mental health field changes. This list was last updated February, 2020.

Resource: <https://tacanow.org/family-resources/common-abbreviations-definitions-slang-and-idioms-used-in-autism/>

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