

Informing Families

Building Trust

A Partnership for Better Communication
on Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State



DSM-5: Defining Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability

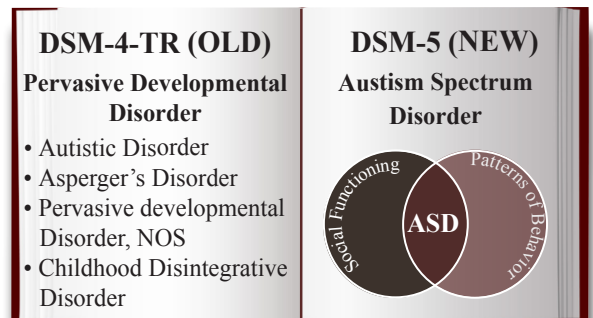
After changes to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) were made last spring, a shift is taking place in the way individuals with mental health and intellectual/developmental disabilities are now diagnosed.

One of the biggest differences is the focus on **adaptive functioning**, which puts a spotlight on the individual's ability to function in daily life. The purpose is to make diagnosing a more useful tool in developing a treatment plan. Below are some important changes to Neurodevelopmental Disorders, which now include:



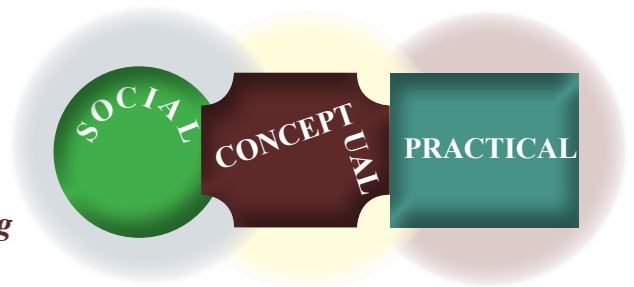
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

- People who experience a level of severity in both areas of:
 - (1) Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across contexts; AND
 - (2) Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior.
- Diagnosis will include a severity level in both major areas of impairment.
- Diagnosis is no longer limited to before age 3.
- Individuals may qualify for a diagnosis of ASD, regardless of IQ level.
- The diagnosis of Asperger's Disorder has been removed, but the people with this diagnosis may still qualify under the single diagnosis of ASD.



INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

- Name changed from Mental Retardation.
- Diagnosis emphasizes the need for both assessment of functioning and standardized testing of intelligence.
- Diagnosis is based on the level of **adaptive functioning** in three domains: social, conceptual, and practical skills.
- The severity of impairment is based on **adaptive functioning** rather than IQ test scores alone. An IQ test will still be administered, but it is not central to the diagnosis.



CHANGES TO DDA ELIGIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM

This July, DDA expects to revise its eligibility rules related to Autism. Under the new rules, an applicant may be considered for DDA eligibility under the condition of autism if they have:

Autism 299.00 per the DSM-4-TR

OR

Autism Spectrum Disorder 299.00 per the DSM-5

+

FSIQ below 85

Questions?
Call your
DDA Case
Resource
Manager.

If an individual has a DSM-5 diagnosis and a FSIQ of 85 or above, they may present additional evidence that they meet the DSM-4-TR criteria. To help obtain this additional documentation, DDA will have a process, including a form to be completed by the diagnosing professional.