

Autism Services

What is Autism?

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder that impacts social interaction, communication, play skills, and reactions to sensory stimuli.

What Are Some Common Signs?

- Limited eye contact
- Delayed speech or vocabulary regression
- Repetitive speech or body movements
- Sensory sensitivities to sounds, textures, movements
- Not responding to name being called
- Rigid daily routines
- Intense interest in a certain topic or item
- Lines up or organizes items or toys
- Limited play with peers

What Can I Do?

Autism Screening

- We offer free autism screenings for children four years of age and younger.
- Professionals will talk with you, interact with your child, and help to determine whether a full evaluation, or other services, are warranted.
- **Call 605.444.9700 to schedule a screening.**

Autism Evaluation

- An interdisciplinary team (psychology, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy) will assess your child using gold-standard autism assessments as well as discipline-specific tests.
- LifeScape offers both medical and educational diagnostic autism evaluations, working with most insurances, SD Medicaid, and school districts.
- Talk to your child's doctor about a referral for an autism evaluation.



What's Next?

Evidence shows that early, intensive intervention is the most effective. Following a diagnosis, there are many places to turn to help your child to learn and grow. **LifeScape offers the following outpatient treatment options:**



Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Behavior Analysts and Registered Behavior Technicians use the principles of learning to teach or improve critical skills, including communication, social interaction, and daily living skills. These services are usually intensive, occurring for several hours, several days per week.

Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) Our team of trained Speech-Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists use a specialized curriculum for preschool-aged children with autism in order to maximize learning across developmental domains (communication, motor skills, cognition, self-help skills). Individual and group sessions are offered.

For more information:

- **Sioux Falls** Call 605.444.9700
- **Rapid City** Call 605.791.7400
- **Toll-Free** 800.584.9294
- **Visit** LifeScapeSD.org

Psychology

Our psychologists work with your child and you in order to teach behavior management strategies, improve parent-child interactions, and prevent caregiver burnout.

Other Therapy Services

- Speech-Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Feeding Therapy, including our Intensive Feeding Program
- Social Skills Groups
- Incontinence and Constipation Management Therapy
- Therapies to address:
 - Sensory Processing Disorder
 - Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)