The
Mesa County Valley School District 51
Autism Spectrum Disorder Guidelines
for
Teachers, Service Providers
And
Parents
In Mesa Valley School District #51, children may be identified with a disability that is on the autism spectrum. Children with an autism spectrum disorder can be complex and will benefit from an array of interventions as determined by their family, educators, medical practitioners, and community service providers.

Children may be identified with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through the medical community or through the special education process. A medical diagnosis can assist in determining whether there are other medical problems or medical needs associated with ASD, provide referrals to other medical services or community agencies, and assist with reimbursement for insurance purposes. An educational diagnosis can determine appropriate educational services and accommodations in order to provide educational progress in the school setting.

In Mesa County, coordination, communication, and collaboration are essential to meeting the needs of children on the autism spectrum. All involved parties have a stake in the well-being and progress of these children. Opportunities and processes should be created to share information and strategies in order to support the child across all settings. These processes should be developed to insure confidentiality, respect to child and family, appreciation for diversity, and utilization of evidence based and peer reviewed assessments and interventions with success of the student as the outcome.
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Table of Contents

Section 1: Introduction to Autism

What is Autism? .................................................. 1
The Federal Definition/Colorado Eligibility/Basic Facts 2
What Causes Autism?/How is Autism Identified? 3
Characteristics of Autism Disorder 4
Possible Early Indicators of Autism 6
DSM-IV Criteria ................................................. 7

Section 2: Components of Effective Programming

First Steps in Developing Proactive Programming 11
Data Collection, Analysis, and Program Changes 12
Data Collection Samples .................................... 13-14
Environmental and Classroom Arrangements 15
Collaboration: Parents, Providers, Physicians 16
Facilitating Transitions Between Settings? 17
Transition Services ........................................... 18
Section 3: Features and Strategies for Intervention

Introduction
Communication
Sensory Processing and Regulation
Social Skills
Behavior /Restricted Interests

Section 4: Parent and Community Handbook

Educational Services
Protocol for Education Assessment Referrals
Classroom Consultation
Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income Information
Directory of Resources – Mesa County
Directory of Resources – State and National
Books and Literature
Websites
Glossary of Terms

Resources used to create these guidelines:
*Colorado Manual for Working with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

*Madison Metropolitan School District – Autism Eligibility Criteria*

*Training Components for Service Providers and Families*
written by the Colorado Autism Task Force's Training and Strategies Subcommittee.

*The Puzzle of Autism;* National Education Association, Copyright 2006. (www.nea.org)