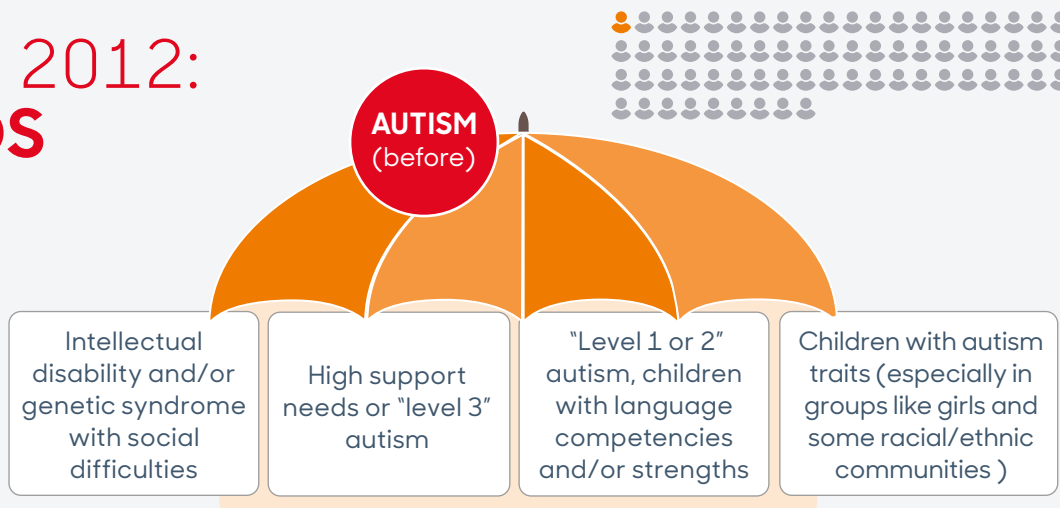


WHY IS AUTISM BEING DIAGNOSED MORE OFTEN?

Autism is a brain difference in the way a person learns, relates to people, communicates, reacts to changes, and experiences sounds, tastes, and other sensations. Autism runs in families because it is strongly genetic. Other factors that influence the developing brain, like being born prematurely, having older parents, and having some medication, illness or other exposures during pregnancy can also increase the chance of autism.

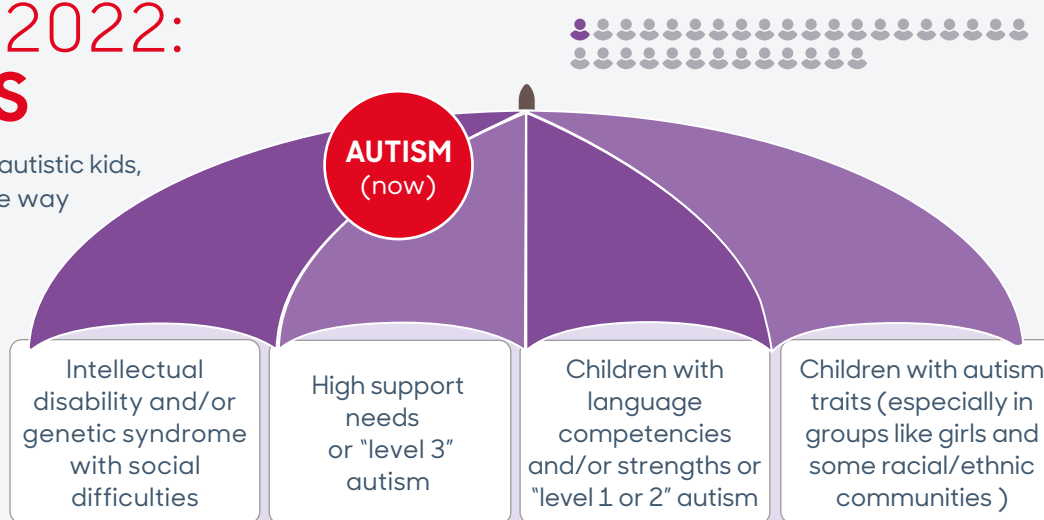
AUTISM IN 2012: 1 IN 69 KIDS

Before, we missed identifying many autistic kids. They did not get the support that could have helped their IQ, language, school, and job skills.



AUTISM IN 2022: 1 IN 31 KIDS

Now, we are better at finding autistic kids, so fewer get missed. Also, the way we define autism and count autistic kids has changed. Getting diagnosed means autistic kids can get services that help them.



Our definition of autism is broader now than in the past. Parenting style, diet, and vaccines do not cause autism.

