

Changes in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) for Autism and Related Disorders

	DSM-III	DSM-III-R	DSM-IV	DSM-5
Year Released	1980	1987	1994	2013
Labels	Infantile autism, pervasive developmental disorder (PDD)	PDD as overarching category for autistic disorder and PDD not otherwise specified (NOS)	PDD as overarching category for autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder, Rett's disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, and PDD NOS	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) ¹
Diagnostic Requirements	Pervasive nonresponsiveness to others, gross language deficits, odd speech if present, and bizarre responses to the environment	At least 8 of 16 criteria across 3 domains: impaired social interactions, impaired language, and restricted interests	At least 6 of 12 criteria across 3 domains: impaired social interactions, impaired communication, and restricted activities and interests	Dysfunction across 2 domains, with persistent deficits in social interaction and communication and at least 2 areas of impairment related to interests and activities
Onset of Symptoms	Before 30 months of age	During infancy or early childhood	Some delay in socialization or language before age 3	When expectations and demands exceed developmental capacity
Severity Specifiers	None	None	Optional use of Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) but not specific for autistic disorder	Levels of impairment for each domain: 1) "requiring support", 2) "requiring substantial support," and 3) "requiring very substantial support"

¹DSM-5 was the first to introduce the option of specifying modifiers related to intellectual impairment, language impairment, and other medical, genetic, and neurodevelopmental factors.

From the Article:
"Infantile Autism to Autism Spectrum Disorder" with **Glen Elliot, MD, PhD**
The Carlat Child Psychiatry Report, Volume 8, Number 1, January/February 2017
www.thecarlatchildreport.com