

Danish Autism Centre

Realizing new opportunities

The Danish Autism Centre helps children, young people and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) uncover and realize new opportunities and quality of life.

We offer:

- Diagnostic examinations
- Counselling
- Consultation
- Special youth education service
- Clarity about education and vocational opportunities
- Protected employment
- Networking and communities
- Training courses for parents and professionals

We focus individually on each person. We design targeted and flexible training plans that ensure space and development for the individual. We maintain a high level of information and strive to maintain constructive and effective co-operation with local authorities, relatives and others.

“Realizing new opportunities” is at the heart of our work. We help you and other people with ASD uncover and realize new opportunities together with others – at our Centre, in society, and not least in the labour market. We also help parents, siblings and other relatives of people with ASD uncover and realize new opportunities.

Purpose and organization

The Danish Autism Centre is a non-profit organization with a social and charitable purpose, whose financial proceeds are used to advance work with people with autism and related disorders. The organization was established in 1994 and is located in Herlev close to Copenhagen. Ever since its inception, the Danish Autism Centre has focused on establishing a wide range of different initiatives and activities in Denmark and abroad.

Our income derives from the work we do for local authorities, institutions and private individuals. It is supplemented by grants from organizations that support the research and development projects that we initiate on a continuous basis.

More than 50 employees

The Danish Autism Centre employs more than 50 full-time professionals with a wide range of knowledge and resources including: psychologists, educators, special educators, teachers, schoolteachers and administrative staff. We also bring in special consultants and external experts as well as maintaining close ties with external psychologists, psychiatrists and scientists in Denmark and abroad.

In-depth experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Danish Autism Centre one of the leaders in Denmark, concentrating the widest and deepest range of knowledge, experience and resources with relevance for people with ASD. Our mission is to help and guide these people in achieving quality of life and wellbeing in everything they do, and to attain independence and inclusion in society, in education, and in the labour market.

Ethics and values

We attach enormous importance to ensuring that all employees have specific and up-to-date qualifications and experience in relation to Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our staff make a special point of being empathetic, flexible and innovative, and of maintaining a high ethical standard.

Four departments

There is nowhere else in Denmark you can find so many activities in one place for people with ASD as at the Centre for Autism. We consist of four departments:

- **Specially Designed Education, Job and Internships**

The Department for Work and Education offers specially designed and governmentally approved youth education courses. The department also counsels, trains and supports people with ASD entering the labour market.

- **Networking**

The Network Department organizes networking and special educational guidance for individuals with ASD of all ages.

- **Consultancy, Studies and Courses**

This department performs examinations, makes diagnoses and has interviews and dialogues with people with ASD. We also provide counselling and instruction to professionals and families.

- **Research and Development**

The Department of Research and Development researches in the field of ASD and is also responsible for our internal professional standards.

Diagnostic assessment

The Danish Autism Centre conducts diagnostic assessments for people at all ages, from toddlers to schoolchildren, young people and adults where there are signs of autism and related disorders.

The purpose of the assessment can be:

- To achieve a diagnostic clarification
- To assess the person's learning and developmental skills and potential
- To make a recommendation for educational and treatment intervention

The assessment is planned in close collaboration with the parents, and, when possible, the professionals involved.

An assessment can be initiated by an institution (residential facility, school, sheltered workplace etc.). An adult who suspects he or she might have an Autism Spectrum Disorder could also initiate it on his or her own initiative.

Research and development projects

A major goal at Centre for Autism is to initiate and promote research and developmental projects, such as:

- An international research project on genetic factors related to autism
- Early identification of autism
- Early intensive intervention
- A research project concerning the integration of young people and adults with autism at normal workplaces