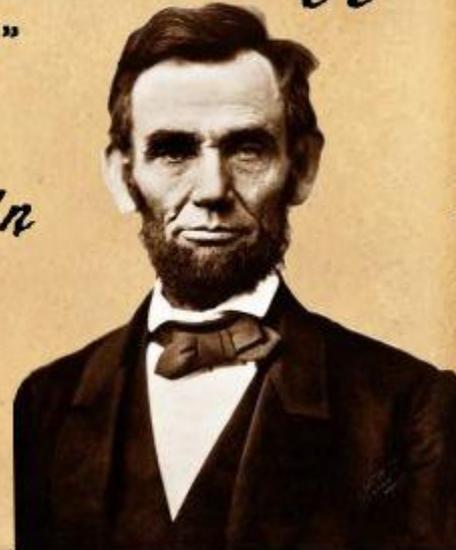


Evaluating Sources

"The thing about quotes from the internet is that it's hard to verify their authenticity."

- Abraham Lincoln



Why Evaluate Sources?

- When you use information sources in your work, they should be **credible** and **appropriate** for your needs.
- The following criteria provide guidelines for systematically evaluating sources.
- Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.



Criteria for Evaluating Sources

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

The CRAAP test is adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University Chico.



Currency: Timeliness of Info

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of date for your topic?
- Web sites: are the links functional?
- If there is a reference list, does it include up-to-date sources?



Currency

Exploring current knowledge on Asperger syndrome and best practices for school-based intervention.

Buettel, Monica P.¹

School Psychology Quarterly. Vol. 21(3), 2006, pp. 349-357

27. McWilliam, R. A., Lang, L., Vandivere, P. & Angell, R. (1995). Satisfaction and struggles: Family perceptions of early intervention. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 19, 43-60.

[Abstract](#) | [Cited by 35](#)

28. Mulick, J. A. & Butter, E. M. (2002). Educational advocacy for children with autism. *Behavioral Interventions*, 17, 54-74.

[Cited by 2](#)

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Safety · Permanency · Well-being

[Home](#) > [Laws & Policies](#) > [Policy/Program Issuances](#) > [Program Instructions](#) > PI-10-11

ACF Administration For Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
	1. Log No.: ACYF-CB-PI-10-11	2. Issuance Date: July 9, 2010
	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
	4. Key Words: Guidance on Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008	



Relevance:

The Importance of the Info to Your Needs

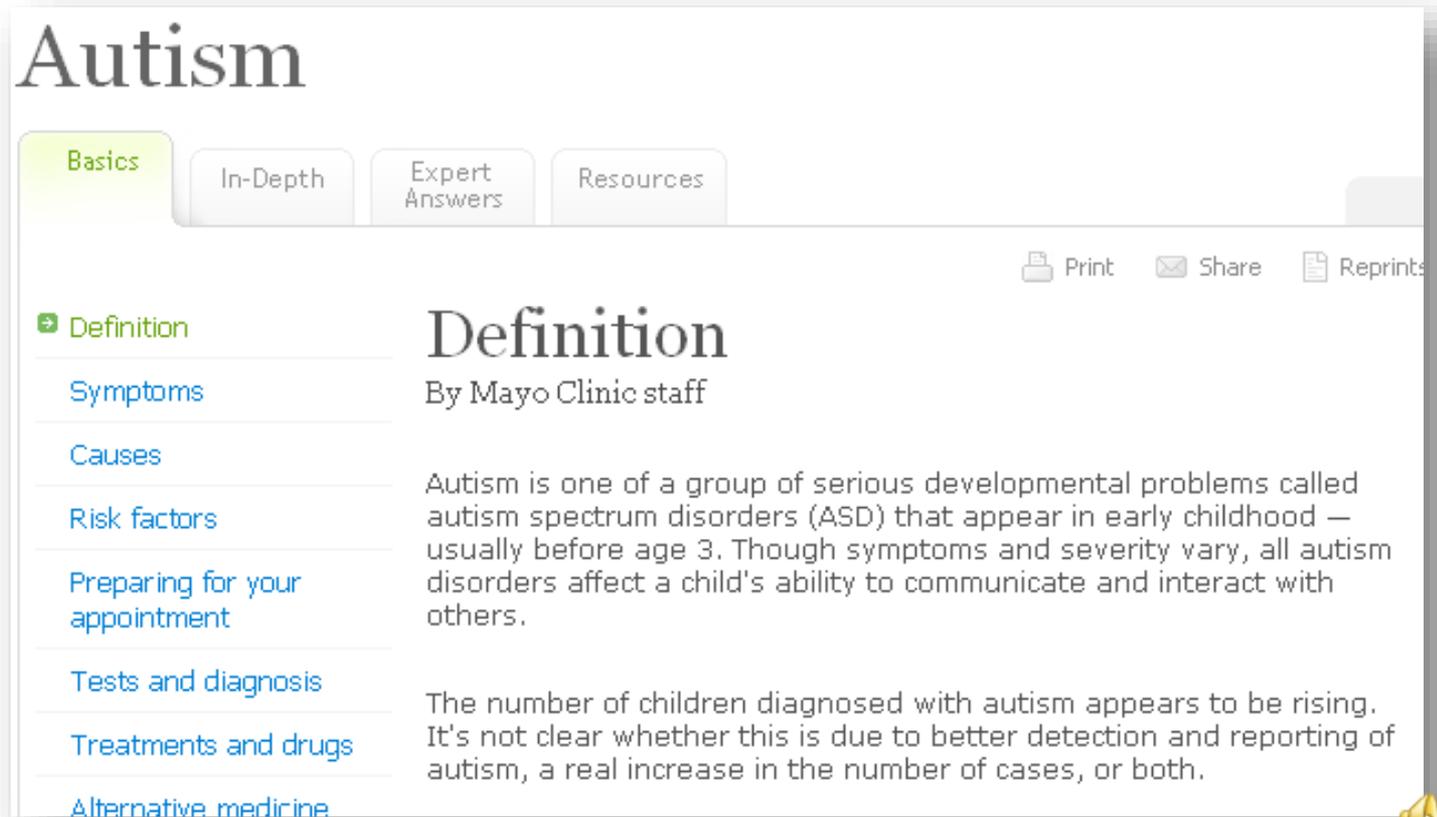
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?



Relevance

What audience might find this web site relevant?

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/autism/DS00348/>



The screenshot shows the Mayo Clinic website page for Autism. The main heading is "Autism". Below it are navigation tabs: "Basics" (highlighted), "In-Depth", "Expert Answers", and "Resources". On the right side, there are icons for "Print", "Share", and "Reprints". On the left side, there is a sidebar with a "Definition" section (highlighted) and a list of other topics: "Symptoms", "Causes", "Risk factors", "Preparing for your appointment", "Tests and diagnosis", "Treatments and drugs", and "Alternative medicine". The main content area is titled "Definition" and is written by Mayo Clinic staff. It contains two paragraphs of text.

Autism

Basics In-Depth Expert Answers Resources

Print Share Reprints

Definition

By Mayo Clinic staff

Autism is one of a group of serious developmental problems called autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that appear in early childhood — usually before age 3. Though symptoms and severity vary, all autism disorders affect a child's ability to communicate and interact with others.

The number of children diagnosed with autism appears to be rising. It's not clear whether this is due to better detection and reporting of autism, a real increase in the number of cases, or both.

Symptoms
Causes
Risk factors
Preparing for your appointment
Tests and diagnosis
Treatments and drugs
Alternative medicine

Authority:

Who is the Source of the Info?

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? If yes, what are they?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as an address, publisher or institution?
- Web sites: does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net**

(See <http://scc.losrios.edu/~library/tutorials/c/URLs/TLDs/> for an explanation.)



Authority

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autism". The page features the Wikipedia logo, which is a globe made of puzzle pieces with various characters and symbols. Below the logo is the text "WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia". On the left side, there are navigation links: "Main page", "Contents", "Featured content", and "Current events". On the right side, there are tabs for "Article", "Discussion", "Read", "View source", and "View h". The main content area displays the title "Autism" and the subtitle "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". The text of the article begins with "Autism is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. These signs all begin before a child is three years old.^[1] Autism affects information processing in the



Accuracy:

How Reliable, Truthful, or Correct is this Info?

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?



Accuracy

Introduction

Parenting a preschool child with developmental disabilities may be a source of significant stress.

Research findings show that the level of parenting stress is higher in parents of preschool children with developmental problems than in parents of typically developing children (e.g. Baker *et al.* 1997, 2002, 2003; Tomanik *et al.* 2004; Spratt *et al.* 2007).

The burdens faced by parents are particularly

Is information supported by evidence?

References

- American Psychiatric Association (APA) (1994) *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edn. Author, Washington.
- Bailey A., Palferman S., Heavey L. & Le Couteur A. (1998) Autism: the phenotype in relatives. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* **28**, 369–92.
- Baker B. L., Blacher J., Kopp C. B. & Kraemer B. (1997) Parenting children with mental retardation. *International Review of Research in Mental Retardation* **20**, 1–45.



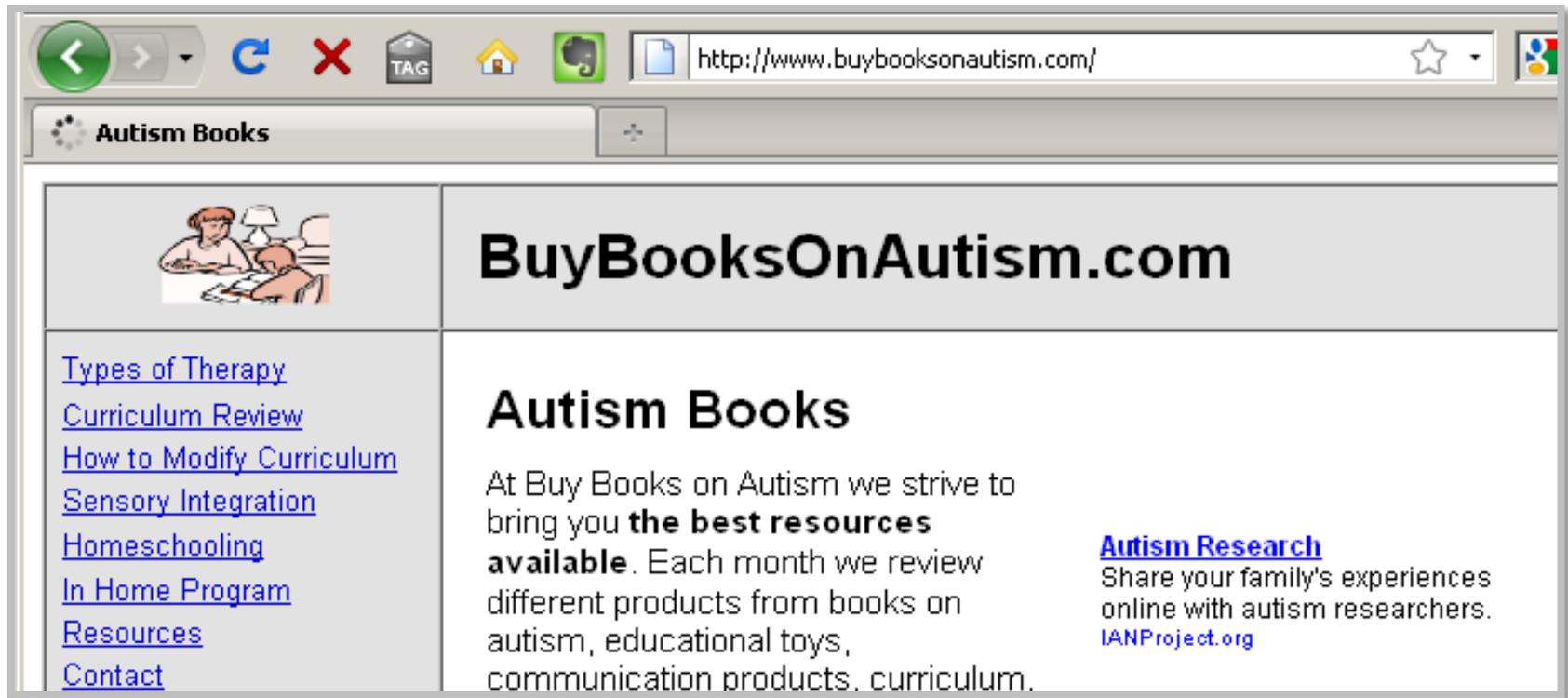
Purpose:

Why does the information exist?

- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?



Purpose



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar displays the URL <http://www.buybooksonautism.com/>. The browser's title bar reads "Autism Books". The website content is displayed in a two-column layout. The left column contains a navigation menu with the following links: [Types of Therapy](#), [Curriculum Review](#), [How to Modify Curriculum](#), [Sensory Integration](#), [Homeschooling](#), [In Home Program](#), [Resources](#), and [Contact](#). The right column features the site's title "BuyBooksOnAutism.com" and a section titled "Autism Books". The text in this section states: "At Buy Books on Autism we strive to bring you **the best resources available**. Each month we review different products from books on autism, educational toys, communication products, curriculum." To the right of this text is a link for "Autism Research" with the subtext "Share your family's experiences online with autism researchers." and the URL IANProject.org. An illustration of a person reading is located in the top left corner of the website's content area.

What is the purpose of most .com websites?



Criteria for Evaluating Sources

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

The CRAAP test is adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University Chico.

