

RDIconnect™



Guiding
Exceptional
Parents

SECAC

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What is Autism, anyway?

The DSM views Autism as a lifelong condition where a person:

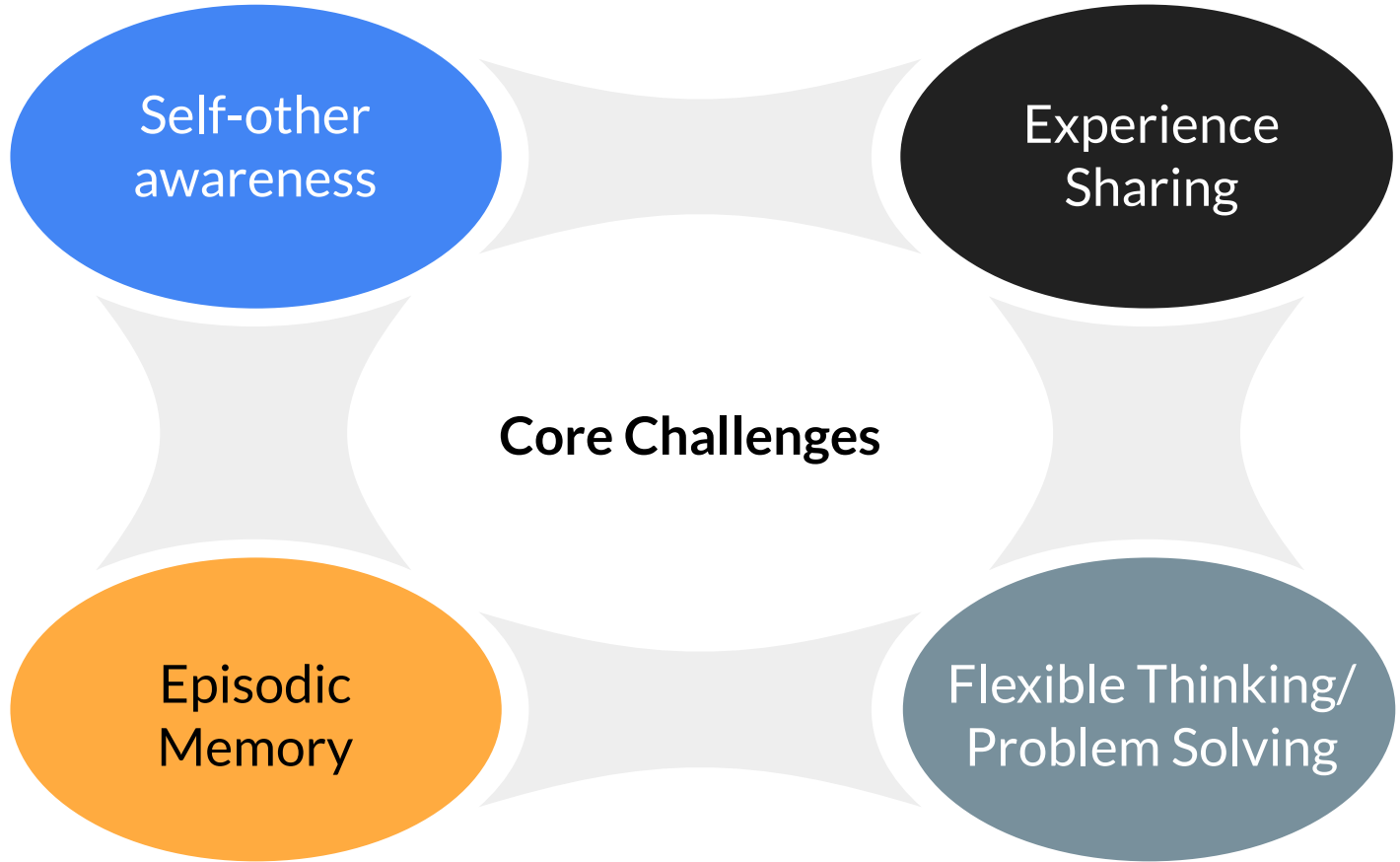
- Experiences challenges with social communication and interaction,
- Shows patterns of repetitive behaviors, strong preferences, or intense interests.

From the RDI perspective:

Autism is developmental disability that manifests in how a person learns to build and manage relationships, especially the kind that require flexibility, emotion sharing, and adapting in the moment.

The Brain and Autism

- The root cause of autism is the failure to fully develop neural connectivity.
- Autism is the result of under development of the neurological **pathways *between* different parts of the brain.**
- The pathways between the **limbic system** and the **prefrontal cortex** are few and small.



What is RDI® anyway?

- RDI® is a developmentally based, family-centered intervention that was designed to address the core deficits of autism.

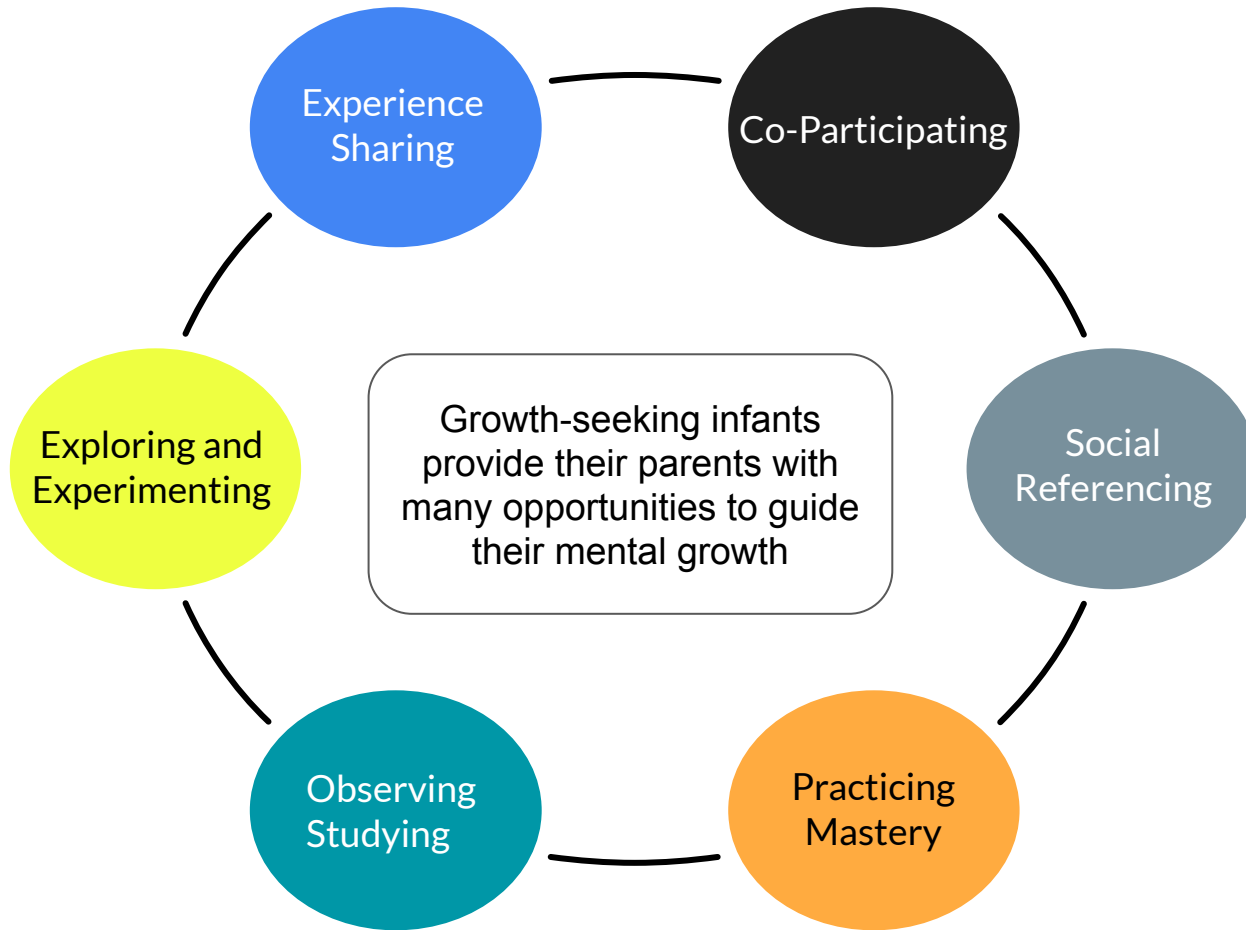
Why RDI®?

- We believe that the primary change agents in a child's life are the parents.
- Our goal is restoring the natural guiding relationship that has been disrupted by autism is the goal
- Because the goal is to restore the natural guiding relationship between the parent and the child, RDI is a home-based therapy.
- RDI views Autism as developmental disorder that occurs when a child fails to develop dynamic thinking and the natural **guiding** relationship between the parent and child does not happen, not as a behavioral disorder.
- [RDIconnect Inc.](#)

What is the difference between RDI and ABA?

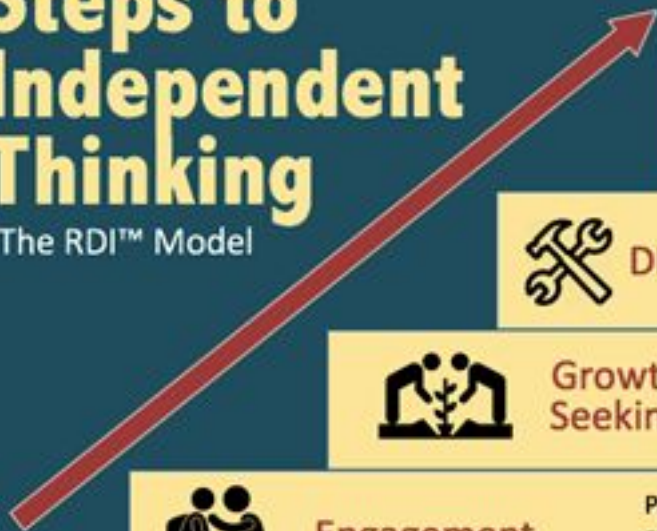
- RDI builds dynamic thinking, flexibility, and connection.
- Parent led
 - Guided, natural teaching can occur throughout the day
 - Parents build intrinsic motivation
 - Goal is to build active partners
- Home-based in natural environment
- Builds thinkers and connectors
- ABA builds skills, routines, and behavior changes.
- Led by an ABA team
 - 10-40 hours per week (\$\$\$)
 - Heavy use of extrinsic reinforcement
 - Goal is compliance
- Clinic, school and possibly home-based
- Focus is on static skills and behavioral compliance
- Builds doers and responders





Steps to Independent Thinking

The RDI™ Model



Readiness

Parents prepare to be guides by addressing their own emotional needs, support systems and learning. Consultants carefully conduct an individualized assessment of the student.



Engagement

Parents begin the process of building the student's motivation to engage in order to create experiences of joint engagement and shared enjoyment.



Growth Seeking

Parents learn how to construct experiences that will activate the child's growth-seeking drive and develop the Guiding Relationship (GR).



DI Foundations

As the GR develops, parents and students begin to build the foundations of Dynamic Intelligence.



Internalizing

The student begins to gradually take ownership of her own mental processing.



Self Guiding

The student is able to be her own guide & 'do' the mental work autonomously.

www.rdiconnect.com

Remediation

- ▶ A gradual, systematic process of correcting a challenge to where it no longer constitutes an obstacle to reaching one's potential for quality of life.
- ▶ Providing a second chance to address the areas of developmental proficiency that should have developed in the first few years of life.

History of RDI in PGCPS

- 2009 First RDI Consultant
 - Parent Groups began
 - 5 staff members began Certification Process
- 2017 First RDI Teacher Institute
- 2018 Second RDI Teacher Institute
- 2019 Third RDI Teacher Institute
- 2022 Partnership with Guiding Exceptional Parents
 - Teacher Institute Follow-up
- 2023 Ongoing Parent Group, Duckworth Teacher Institute
- 2024-2026 Ongoing Parent Group

Proposal for 2026-2027 School Year

- Ongoing Parent Support Group 2X monthly
- Individual 30-60 minute sessions on request
- One Six Week Introduction to RDI for new families - (Fall)
 - If you are interested in signing up for the fall Introductory session. Complete this [form](#).
- Upcoming: Saturday May 2 - One Day Parent Conference
RDI Essentials for Parents/Dynamic Intelligence - **Register Today**

Questions??