

Other disorders Some children with certain medical conditions have a higher risk of developing an autism spectrum disorder or similar symptoms of this disorder. Examples include Fragility X chromosome syndrome, an inherited disorder that causes intellectual problems; tuberous sclerosis, a condition in which benign brain tumors grow; and Rett syndrome, a genetic condition that exclusively affects girls and causes slowing head growth, intellectual disability, and purposeless use of hands. The age of the parents There may be a link between babies born to older parents and developing autism spectrum disorder, but there is not enough research to prove it. Babies born before 26 weeks into pregnancy may be more likely to develop autism spectrum disorder. Birth before pregnancy is complete.