



New Transitions
COUNSELING CENTER, LTD.

Comorbidity & ASD:

Trent L. Culver Psy.D., CADC

Cecily Kanter, Psy.D.



Comorbidity & ASD

- Nearly three-quarters of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) also have another medical or psychiatric condition. This is called ‘comorbidity’, and the conditions are often called ‘comorbid’ conditions.
- Comorbid conditions can appear at any time during a child’s development.
- Some might not appear until later in adolescence or adulthood.



Relationship Between Intellectual Disability and ASD

- A study examining the relationship between intellectual disabilities and ASD concluded that around 38% of children with ASD also had an intellectual disability.
- Not all children with ASD and intellectual disability will have the same symptoms or level of functioning.
- Because adaptive behaviors encompass numerous skill sets, intellectual disabilities can be mild, moderate, or severe depending on how many adaptive behaviors are affected and the degree to which they are affected.



Common Comorbidities W/ Autism

- ADHD
- Anxiety
- Bipolar
- Depression
- Intellectual Disability & Developmental delays
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Sleep Problems
- Gastrointestinal Symptoms



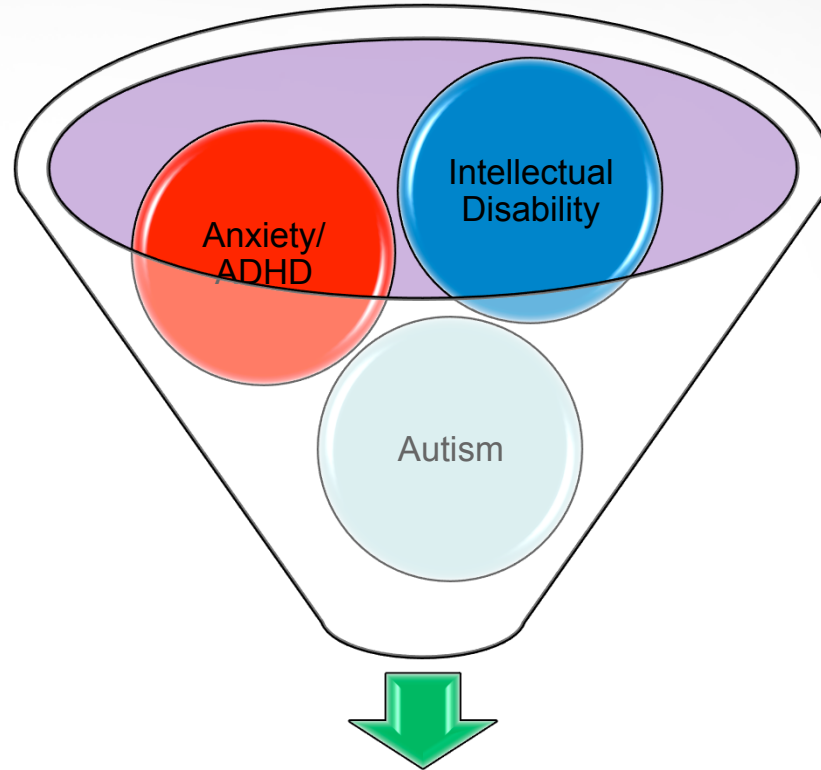
New Transitions Counseling Center Goals

Creating a safe, supportive environment:

- Sometimes these comorbid conditions have symptoms that affect how well ASD therapies and interventions work.
- So it's important to identify the conditions and treat them separately.



Comorbidity Challenges



Case Example



Resources



- <http://autismidcard.com>
- <https://www.centerforautism.com/resources/>
- <http://www.dhs.state.il.us>
(PUNS funding & other resources)
- www.tap-illinois.org
(The autism program of IL. ie TAP program)
- <http://www.dhs.state.il.us>
(Department of Rehab Services)