

Autism: Facts Over Fear — A Message from The Ely Center, LLC

At The Ely Center, LLC, we are proud to support neurodivergent individuals through strengths-based, evidence-informed speech therapy, mental health counseling, and occupational therapy. Our family-centered, neurodiversity-affirming model celebrates and uplifts autistic identity—not as something to be fixed, but as something to be understood and supported.

In light of recent public statements by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. that spread harmful misinformation about autism, we feel it's important to address common **myths vs. facts** with clarity and compassion:

MYTHS vs. FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

✗ MYTH: Autism is caused by vaccines.

✓ FACT: Numerous large-scale, peer-reviewed studies have found *no* link between vaccines and autism. This myth has been repeatedly and definitively disproven by the global scientific and medical communities.

✗ MYTH: Autism is a disease or injury that must be cured.

✓ FACT: Autism is a natural variation in neurodevelopment. It is not a disease. Autistic individuals have unique strengths and ways of experiencing the world that deserve respect and support—not erasure.

✗ MYTH: Environmental toxins or parental behaviors are to blame for autism.

✓ FACT: There is no reliable evidence that supports these claims. Autism is believed to have a strong genetic component and emerges naturally during brain development.

✗ MYTH: Autistic individuals cannot lead fulfilling lives.

✓ FACT: With the right supports—especially affirming, individualized, and community-based ones—autistic individuals *do* thrive. Many are leaders, artists, professionals, and cherished members of their communities.



Where Everyone Has a Voice

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At The Ely Center, we stand for:

- **Celebrating neurodiversity** through respectful, person-centered care.
- **Empowering individuals and families** through social cognitive learning in peer groups, 1:1 coaching, and caregiver support.
- **Creating inclusive spaces** where clients feel safe, connected, and understood—just as they are.
- **Uplifting truth over fear**, and science over stigma.

We will continue to advocate for our clients, challenge misinformation, and create environments where every neurodivergent voice is heard and honored.

With care and commitment,

The Ely Center, LLC