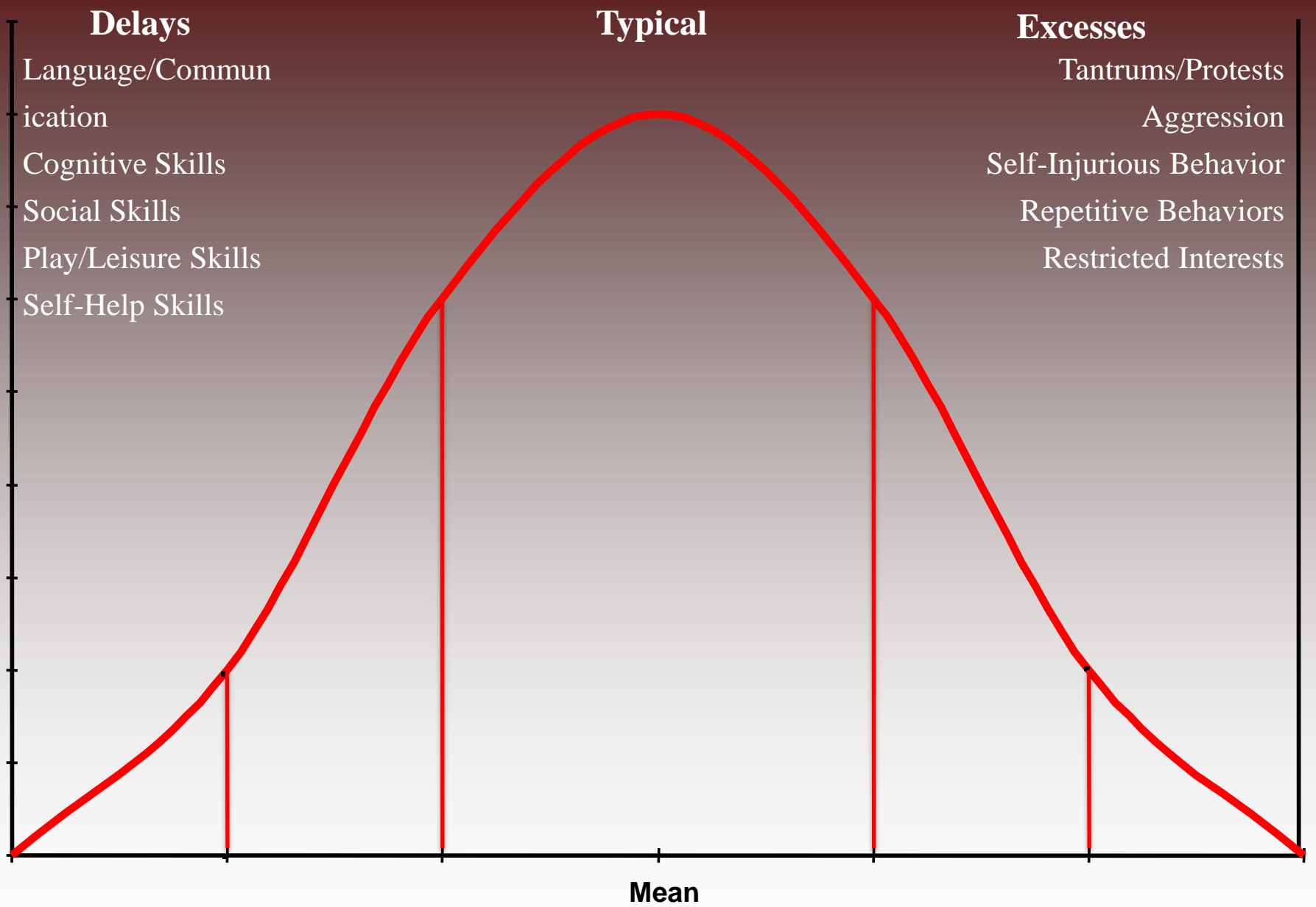


What is Autism?

- Spectrum Disorder
- Syndrome: Collection of Behaviors. Diagnosed via observable behavior- DSM-V
- Prevalence Rate: 1:68 children (1:42 boys)
- 10 to 17 percent annual increase
- There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered.
- There is no one cause of autism, just as there is no one type of autism. However it appears to be triggered by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development.



Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

ABA is based upon more than 50 years of scientific investigation with individuals affected by a wide range of behavioral and developmental disorders.

ABA is the science in which procedures derived from the principals of behavior are applied to improve socially significant behavior.

Controlled trials have shown both the efficacy of programs based in the principles of ABA and that certain individual characteristics (age, IQ, and functional impairments) are associated with positive outcomes. (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2011)



Intensive Behavioral Intervention

Intensive Behavioral intervention (IBI), a treatment approach that is based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), has the strongest body of empirical support demonstrating efficacy for improving the functioning of children diagnosed with ASD (Leaf, McEachin, & Taubman 2008; New York State Department of Health, 1999; Simpson, 2005).

Why Early?

Infancy is considered to be a period of marked plasticity in brain development and learning potential. This underscores the dynamic and plastic nature of early brain development in ASD and the potential of early intervention to alter the course of brain and behavioral development in young children with ASD and thereby promoting the most positive long-term outcomes. (Dawson, 2012)

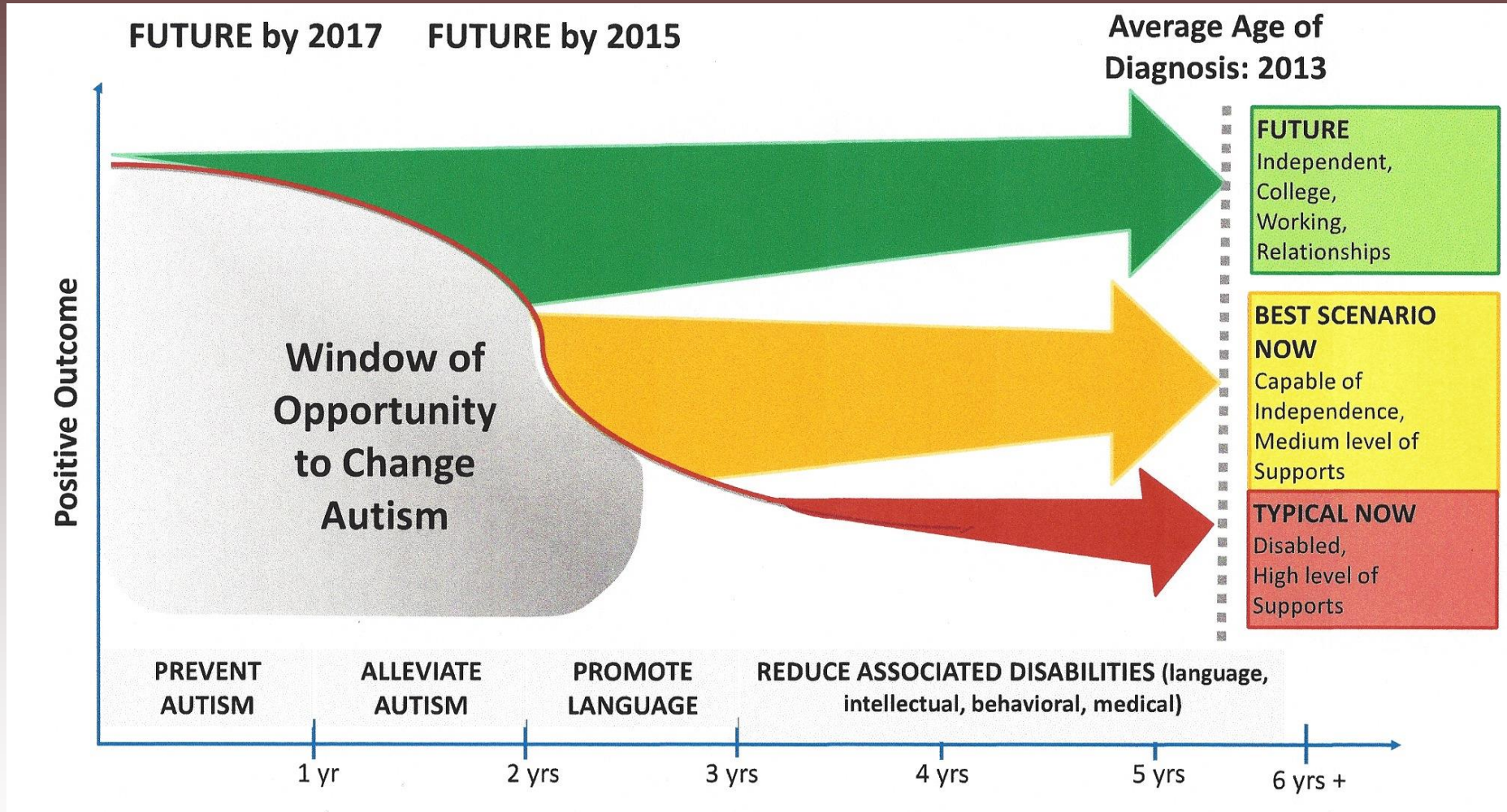
Intensity 25-40 Hours

“Educational services should begin as soon as a child is suspected of having an autistic spectrum disorder” and should include “a minimum of 25 hours per week, 12 months a year” (National Research Council, 2001)

Children, ages 18 to 30 months, who received 25 hours a week (20 hours by trained clinicians, 5 hours by parents) of comprehensive behavioral early intervention for over a 2-year span showed greater improvement in cognitive and language abilities and adaptive behavior and fewer autism symptoms than did children referred for interventions commonly available in their communities. (Dawson, 2012)

47% of children diagnosed with Autism, who received 40 hours per week of intensive behavioral intervention, starting under 46 months of age, achieved normal intellectual and educational functioning, with normal-range IQ scores and successful first grade performance in public school and were indistinguishable among their typical peers. (Lovaas, 1987)

The Realities of Autism: ...Changing the nature of autism for children tomorrow



Jones et al. (2008). Arch Gen Psy, 65(8), 946-54; Klin et al. (2009). Nature, 459, 257-61; Jones & Klin (2009). J Am Acad Child & Adoles Psy, 48(5), 471-3; Shultz et al. (2011). PNAS, 108(52), Jones & Klin (2013). Nature, in press.

