The Story of AUTISM

PART 2:

PRIMITIVE REFLEXES RECODE WIRING

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Your baby is born! Everything looks fine on the surface. He/she appears robust and healthy, has five fingers and five toes.

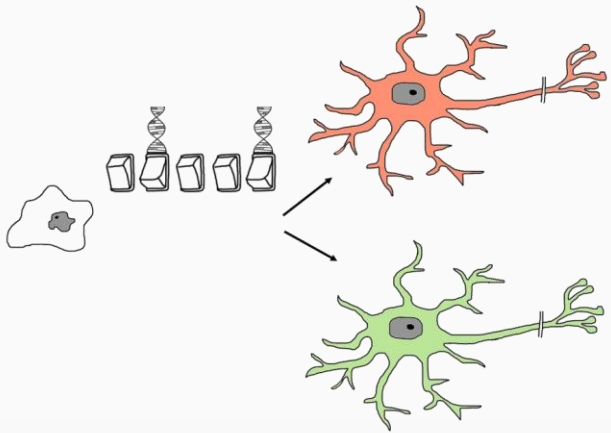
THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

But on the inside important neurological changes are taking place. New reflexes are forming to help baby transition from the womb to world, and soon old ones will begin to fade away.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Did you know that at birth a baby's brain already has almost all of the neurons it will ever have?

The catch is… these neurons are unformatted.
They're just blank stem cells looking for a job to do.



THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

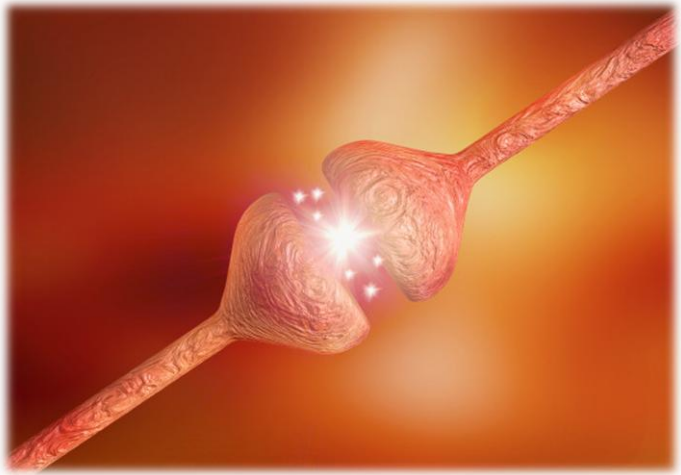
Once a baby is released from the womb, his interactions with his environment, along with his body movements, begin the job of programming the stem cells, turning them into active, functional neurons.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Typically, an infant's brain will double in size in the first year, and by age three it will have reached 80 percent of its adult volume.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

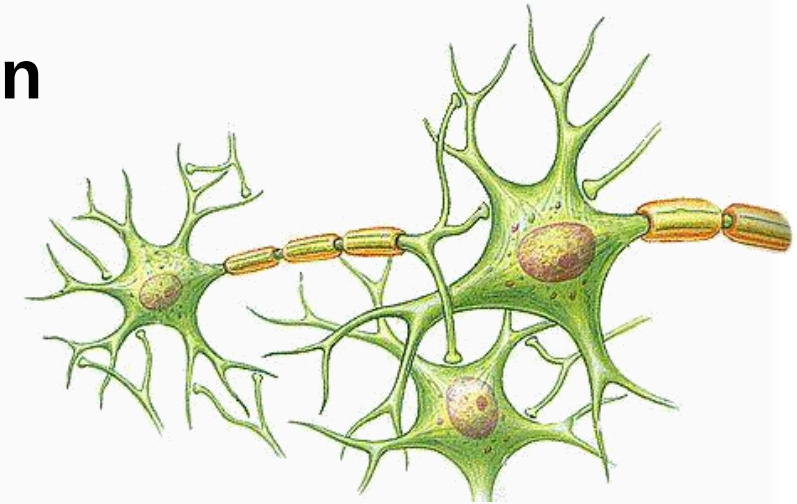
This is because synapses are formed at a faster rate during the first months and years than at any other time in our life. The only thing that enables the brain to form synapses and grow is sensory and motor experience.



THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

And, during the first months of life, primitive reflexes are what determine what those sensory and motor experiences will be.

So, a heck of lot is riding on the success of early reflex arcs to form and integrate as they should.



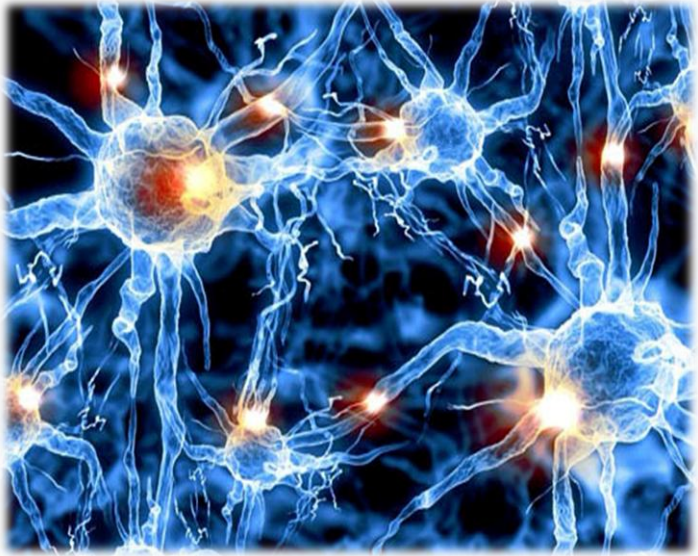
THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

In kids who turn out to have autism, the problem is NOT always that their primitive reflexes aren't forming. This may indeed be happening.

The problem is that the wiring for them is not being pruned away as it should.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

And this superfluous wiring clutters up the lower brain circuitry, interfering with more functional brain and development.



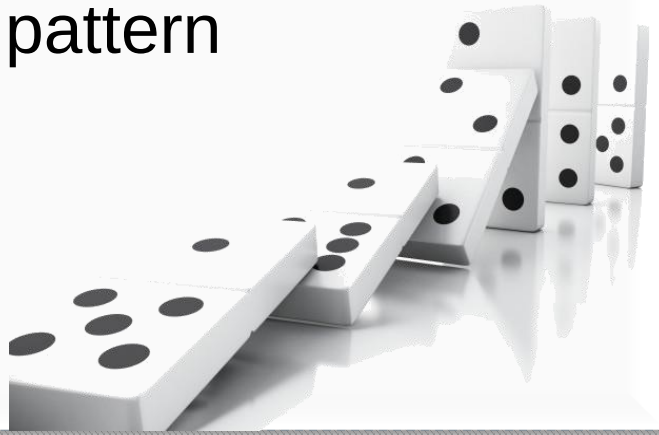
THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Because of the rapid rate of early neural growth, even a small error can quickly turn into a bigger one, skewing typical wiring ever more toward an atypical spectrum.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

One retained reflex throws off another and another and the neural damage dominoes continue to topple.

Of course, the dominoes don't always stack up or topple in the same way, which explains why each person with autism has their own pattern of neurological "quirkiness."



THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

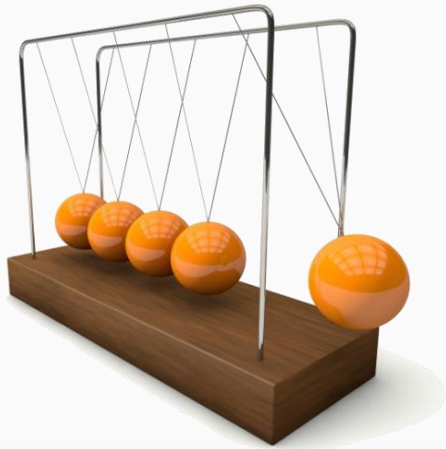
If you take all the primitive reflexes and shuffle them up and deal them out dozens of different ways, that is how you come up with the vast spectrum of autism.

Below I highlight some of the reflexes that affect our primary senses of vision, hearing and movement.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Pimitive Reflexes That Affect Vestibular System and Proprioception:

All the reflexes affect the body senses to a degree, but primarily the Moro, Babkin, Bauer Crawling, Stepping, Spinal Galant, ATNR and STNR.



Any or all of these could veer off course to trigger a spectrum diagnosis.

THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

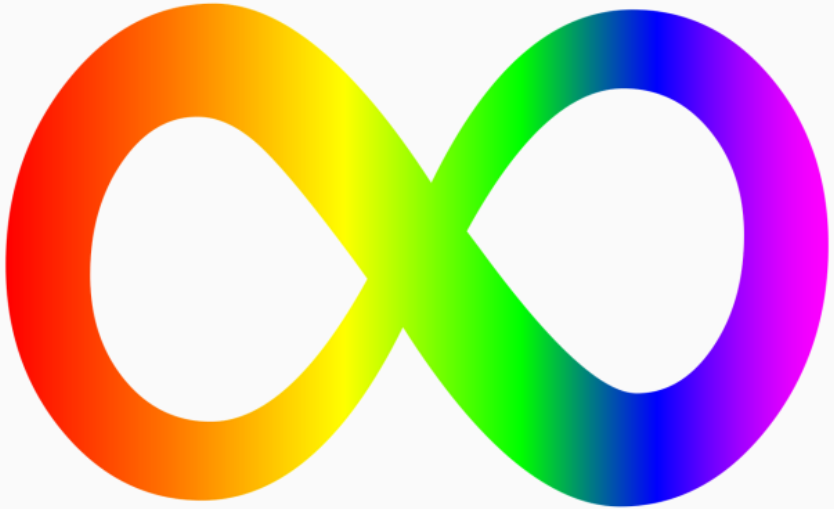
Primitive Reflexes That Affect Vision and Hearing:

Problems with these senses could arise from non-integration of the Moro, Bauer Crawling, Babkin, Stepping, Spinal Galant, Tonic Labyrinth, ATNR or STNR reflexes.

Again, pick your poison. A problem with one, more than one – the more reflexes involved, the more "severe" the autism.

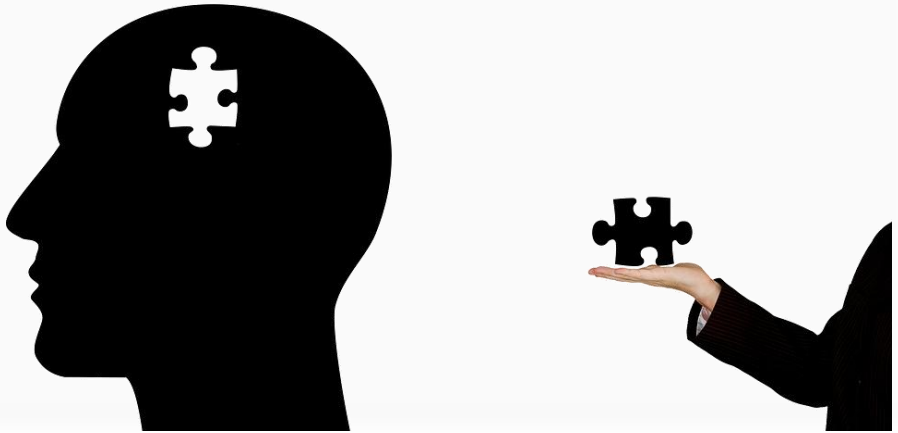
THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Kids on the milder end of the spectrum might have fewer retained reflexes – or those reflexes might be of a less significant, less distortive nature.



THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

Autism is stealthy because it disrupts the developing neural system one small step at a time, depriving it of vital pieces of data that need to be filled in before a baby can get a clear picture of his/her body and how to control and maneuver it in space.



THE STORY OF AUTISM: Primitive Reflexes Recode Wiring

The longer this picture remains incomplete, the more damage it does to the developing brain.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PRESENTATION