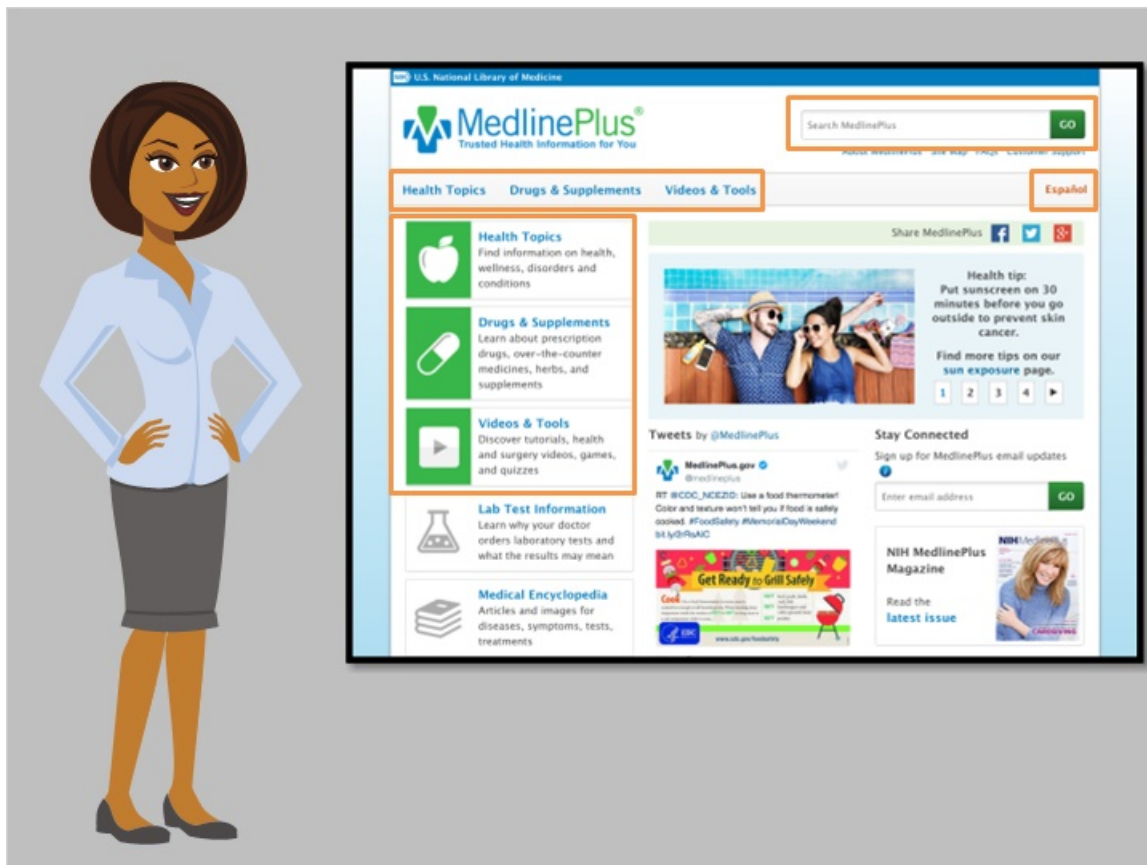# Navigating Medline Plus

Let's take a closer look at MedlinePlus as Della uses it to search for information about autism.

When Della first goes to the site, she sees a search box at the top of the page. She also notices categories that may help her locate information: **Health Topics**, **Drugs & Supplements**, and **Videos & Tools**. She sees that the site is also available in Spanish, which might be helpful for her nephew's mother.

As she looks at the rest of the page, she sees many other articles and links. Della begins to feel overwhelmed at the amount of information on the page. Della knows that Autism is a common topic, so she decides to start with the link labeled Health Topics. Can you help Della by opening one of the two **Health Topic** links now?

Della is taken to a page that lists common health topics, sorted by category. She could click one of the category links to be taken to a more detailed list of topics. She isn't sure which category to choose to find autism. Instead, she chooses to use the alphabetical list **Find Topics A to Z** at the top of the page.

Della clicks **A** for autism.

Ataxia Telangiectasia

Atelectasis *see* Collapsed Lung

Atherosclerosis

Atherosclerosis, Coronary *see* Coronary Artery Disease

Athlete's Foot

Atopic Dermatitis *see* Eczema

Atrial Fibrillation

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Auditory Tumor *see* Acoustic Neuroma

Autism *see* Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autoimmune Diseases

Autoinflammatory Disorders *see* Autoimmune Diseases

Automated External Defibrillators *see* Cardiac Arrest

Automobile Safety *see* Motor Vehicle Safety

Autonomic Nervous System Disorders

Avascular Necrosis *see* Osteonecrosis

Avian Influenza *see* Bird Flu

AVM *see* Arteriovenous Malformations

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Page last updated on 26 September 2017

Next, she is taken to an alphabetical list of all health topics. She scrolls down the page to the point where she finds **Autism**. She notices that it directs her to see the term **Autism Spectrum Disorder**. This is the official term used by MedlinePlus to refer to autism.

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She clicks one of the two links for **Autism Spectrum Disorder** to continue.

Della begins to read the page for **Autism Spectrum Disorder**. At the top, she notices links to the information included on this page, similar to a table of contents. She sees that there is basic information, which includes treatments and therapies. She also notices sections to learn more, and review research.

Since Della doesn't know much about autism, she starts with the **Summary** and **Start Here** sections.

of specialists, doing various tests and evaluations to make a diagnosis.

The causes of ASD are not known. Research suggests that both genes and environment play important roles.

There is currently no one standard treatment for ASD. There are many ways to increase your child's ability to grow and learn new skills. Starting them early can lead to better results. Treatments include behavior and communication therapies, skills training, and medicines to control symptoms.

NIH: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Start Here

- Autism Spectrum Disorder NIH▷ (National Institute of Mental Health)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder NIH▷ (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
  Also in Spanish
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  Also in Spanish
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
  NIH▷ (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
  Also in Spanish

The **Summary** provides a few paragraphs that are easy to read, and give her a basic understanding.

Under the **Start Here** section, Della sees links to four articles. She can see the name of the organization responsible for each article. She can also identify which links are available in Spanish.

Della knows she can trust all of these resources, since they're included on the MedlinePlus website. She decides to choose the first link in the list, from the National Institute of Mental Health.

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The link opens the article on the website of the National Institute of Mental Health. When Della is done reading the article, she can return to MedlinePlus to continue her search.