

The characteristic behaviors of ASD may or may not be apparent in infancy (18 to 24 months), but usually become obvious during early childhood (24 months to 6 years). Autism affects individuals in every country and region of the world and knows no racial, ethnic, nor economic boundaries.

Early intervention can significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with autism. However, the majority of individuals with ASD will continue to exhibit some symptoms in varying degrees throughout their lives. Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention.

If you have ever had concerns about your child's development, you are not alone. Whether you're worried about your child's use of language, ability to relate to others, or any other developmental concerns, your child relies on you to share your observations with those who can help. Having occasional concerns is a natural part of parenting. But when these concerns persist, it's time to take action.

If your baby/toddler shows two or more of these signs, please ask your pediatric healthcare provider for an immediate evaluation.

Impairment in Social Interaction:

- Lack of appropriate eye gaze
- Lack of warm, joyful expressions
- Lack of sharing interest or enjoyment
- Lack of response to name
- Prefers to be alone
- Difficulty in mixing with other children

Impairment in Communication:

- Lack of showing gestures (pointing, reaching, waving)
- Lack of coordination of nonverbal communication
- Unusual prosody (little variation in pitch, odd intonation, irregular rhythm, unusual voice quality)
- Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age
- Difficulty in expressing needs
- Echolalia (repeating words or phrases in place of normal language)

Repetitive Behaviors & Restricted Interests:

- Repetitive movements with objects
- Repetitive movements or posturing of body, arms, hands, or fingers
- Inappropriate attachment to objects
- Throws intense and/or violent tantrums
- Playing with toys and objects in unusual ways
- Difficulty adjusting to changes in routine or to familiar surroundings; and/or events
- No real fear of dangers and apparent insensitivity to pain

Yellow Flags

If you have a child with autism, there is a 1 in 5 chance you will have another child on the spectrum.

- Unusual eating habits and/or restricted food preferences
- Unusual sleeping habits
- Walking on the toes or the ball of the foot