



Can You S.P.O.T. the Early Signs of Autism?

Spotting the Early Signs of Autism Can Make All the Difference.

Early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can typically be spotted by a child's first birthday. If your child is 12 months or older, take the first step by using the S.P.O.T. resource below.

If your child is 12 months of age or older, check each box you feel describes your child. If one or more are boxes are checked, share this sheet with your child's doctor or visit [SpotASDby3.com](https://www.spotasdbym3.com) to take an additional assessment called MCHAT.® You can also contact the National Autism Association (NAA) at naa@nationalautism.org or 877.622.2884 for assistance.



Social Differences

- ☐ Avoids eye contact
- ☐ Does not point to show you something, or look at what you're pointing at (like a balloon or airplane)
- ☐ Does not bring you objects or items of interest to show you
- ☐ Does not look at others' faces during an exciting event, or respond to expressions, such as a smile
- ☐ Does not play pretend, copy, or imitate
- ☐ Plays with toys in an unusual way (i.e., lines up toys, spins wheels of a toy car repeatedly, etc.)
- ☐ Does not seem interested in other children



Persistent Sensory Differences

- ☐ Gets upset over everyday noises
- ☐ Over- or under-reacts to sounds, lights, smells, tastes, touch, and/or textures
- ☐ Has difficulty being consoled after becoming upset
- ☐ Resists loud or stressful areas or situations (may try to exit on own, run, or wander away)
- ☐ Has unusual fears (i.e., a non-threatening object, particular song or sound)
- ☐ Over- or under-reacts to the perceived feelings of people or objects



Obsessive & Repetitive Behaviors

- ☐ Obsessive interest in a particular object, activity, topic, or place (i.e., pond, fountain, train station)
- ☐ Repeats words or phrases over and over
- ☐ Repeats body movements: may flap hands or arms, rock, spin, twirl or flicks fingers
- ☐ Looks at objects or items close up from corner of eye
- ☐ Prefers sameness: has difficulty with changes to routine, or times of transition
- ☐ Walks on toes for a long time, or continues to toe-walk beyond age 2



Talking & Communication Delays

- ☐ Little to no babbling by 12 months
- ☐ Does not say single words by 16 months
- ☐ Does not wave 'bye,' or point to something needed or wanted
- ☐ Does not respond when name is called, but responds to other sounds
- ☐ Does not seem to understand what is being asked or said
- ☐ Loss of previous babbling, language skills, or words



- ✓ Autism affects all races, genders, and ages
- ✓ Studies show that nearly 80% to 90% of parents saw signs of autism in their child by 24 months, and that early intervention can have a positive impact on a child's longterm success
- ✓ Understanding autism also allows caregivers to learn about important safety topics, such as wandering/elopement behaviors in children with autism

#SpotASDby3



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