

AUTISM: KNOW THE SIGNS AND ACT EARLY

Autism can affect a child's ability to communicate and play with others. Children with autism can act very differently with other children or adults. If you think that your child has signs of autism, talk to your doctor. There is support for your family.

Get Support Early

Children with autism need help to develop social and language skills. This can be done with therapy, medicine, or both. Therapy can help children improve their behavior, speech, play, and movements.

The best outcomes occur when signs of autism are caught before 1 year of age and treatment is started right away. Work closely with your child's doctors, therapist, and teachers to help your child learn, grow, and thrive.



Early Signs of Autism in Babies and Toddlers

- Does not respond well to parents and caregivers
 - Does not respond when name is called
 - Does not return a happy smile
 - Does not notice caregiver in the room
- Makes poor eye contact
- Does not babble, point, or use other gestures by 12 months of age
- Cannot adjust to small changes, such as toys being moved from their usual places
- Does not ask for help
- Does not pretend play (does not pretend to talk on the phone or feed a doll)
- Loses any language or social skills that had started to develop

Signs of Autism in Children

As children get older, there are more diverse signs of autism. He or she may:

- Avoid eye contact or want to be alone
- Have trouble understanding or talking about feelings
- Have a hard time connecting with others or making friends
- Repeat the same words or phrases over and over
- Need to follow a routine
- Be over sensitive to loud noises

Talk to Your Doctor if You Are Concerned

You or someone who takes care of your child may be the first to notice unusual signs. Discuss your concerns with your doctor right away. Do not wait to see if there are changes. Your doctor may refer you to specialists to evaluate your child's behavior.



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