

Early Signs in Infants

To increase the chance for a successful social development of your child, knowledge about a child's typical social developmental milestones is crucial. **It is important to report any early signs of delay to your pediatrician.**

9
months

RED FLAGS OF AUTISM

- ▶ Few or no big smiles or joyful expressions
- ▶ Limited or no eye contact
- ▶ Little or no back-and-forth sound sharing

12
months

- ▶ Little or no babbling
- ▶ Little or no back-and-forth gestures (pointing)
- ▶ Little or no response to own name

18
months

- ▶ Very few or no words
- ▶ No awareness when spoken to
- ▶ Repeat actions over and over again

Importance of Early Identification

Autism is the fastest growing neuro-developmental disorder facing children today; with a prevalence rate of 1:44 children*. Early Identification and Intensive Early Intervention are vital to changing the trajectory of a child's development. An Early Intervention program focuses on developing key skills during those first critical years of life to help children close the development gap.

- ▶ Communication and Language
- ▶ Social Skills
- ▶ Play Skills
- ▶ Motor Skills
- ▶ Learning Skills
- ▶ Self-Care

*CDC (2021)



Help is closer than you think

CAC collaborates with families impacted by autism across Southern California, from our centers conveniently located in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

For more info:

www.cac.co
951.813.4034



Early Signs of Autism



What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Autism spectrum disorder is defined as a neuro-developmental disorder characterized by:

- ▶ Social Impairments
- ▶ Communication Difficulties
- ▶ Repetitive or overly used behaviors

DIAGNOSING TAKES TWO STEPS:

Step 1: Developmental Screening

Step 2: Diagnostic Evaluation



Step 1: Developmental Screening

According to the CDC, a developmental screening is a short test to tell if children are learning basic skills when they should, or if they might have delays. During a developmental screening, the doctor might ask the parent some questions or talk and play with the child to see how the child learns, speaks, behaves, and moves. All children should be screened for developmental delays and disabilities during regular well-child doctor visits at:



The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends screening for autism at 18 month and 24 month well-child check ups and whenever a parent has concerns.

Step 2: Diagnostic Evaluation

The second step of diagnosis is a comprehensive evaluation. This thorough review may include looking at the child's behavior and development and interviewing the parents. It may also include a hearing and vision screening, genetic testing, neurological testing, and other medical testing.

ASD specialists are trained to use a test called the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The ADOS is a test that helps a trained evaluator rate the child's behavior for signs of autism and determine whether the behavior pattern indicates a diagnosis of ASD.

Comprehensive Autism Center provides comprehensive developmental evaluations of children 0 to 6 years old. These evaluations investigate and diagnose any concerns for autism spectrum disorder, global developmental delay, intellectual disability, or behavior challenges in children with or without mental health problems, such as trauma, depression, and/or anxiety.

