

Early Signs of Autism – Printable Checklist

Many children will exhibit one or two of these common characteristics of children at risk for autism. However, if you notice several of the following signs, you should consult your child's pediatrician about his or her development.

As always, if your instincts tell you something is going on with your child's development, you should consult a doctor.

Babies up to 12 Months

- Difficult to bond with the infant
- Limited eye contact
- No babbling by twelve months of age
- No pointing or use of other gestures
- Does not like to be held
- Extremely fussy and hard to comfort
- Delayed in reaching motor milestones
- Does not smile back at you when you smile
- Does not engage in social games, such as peek-a-boo
- Does not turn to his or her name
- Requires very specific and extreme actions to calm down
- Does not make joyful sounds or show pleasure at seeing caregivers
- Does not coo or babble back and forth with adults

Toddlers and Preschoolers

- Limited eye contact
- No pointing or use of other gestures
- Does not request to be picked up
- Delayed in reaching motor milestones
- Plays with toys that are below his or her age level
- Plays with only part of a toy, such as spinning the wheels of a toy car
- Does not play pretend
- Seems to rely on routine and becomes upset when routine is interrupted
- Does not turn to his or her name
- Does not show you toys or objects of interest
- Rocks his or her body or makes other repetitive movements
- Speaks in a "robotic" tone of voice
- Can label items by name, but does not use language to convey wants or needs
- No talking by 16 months of age
- Loss of speech or other already-mastered skills
- Uses your hand to do things, such as opening doors or getting a snack
- Very sensitive to certain things, such as food textures, tags in shirts, getting his or her hands messy, etc.