Autism Signs & Symptoms

One of the most important things you can do as a parent or caregiver is to learn the early signs of autism and become familiar with the developmental milestones that your child should be reaching.

The list below gives some examples of common types of behaviors you might see in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). **Not *all* autistic children will have *all* these behaviors, but most will have several of the behaviors listed below. That's why professional evaluation is crucial.** Additionally, some children without ASD might display some of these behaviors. But for those with ASD, these behaviors can be disruptive or challenging to daily life.

By 6 months

- Few or no big smiles or other warm, joyful and engaging expressions
- Limited or no eye contact

By 9 months

- Little or no back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions

By 12 months

- Little or no babbling
- Little or no back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving
- Little or no response to name

By 16 months

- Very few or no words

By 24 months

- Very few or no meaningful, two-word phrases (not including imitating or repeating)