

Can you recognize the early signs of autism?

Red Flags for Autism in Toddlers...

By Wendy Stone, PhD

Behaviors	Examples
Delayed development of spoken language	Child has a vocabulary of less than 50 single words and/or no 2-word phrases
Failure to use nonverbal forms of communication to compensate for delayed language development	Child demonstrates inconsistent use of eye contact, gestures (such as pointing or shaking head), and facial expressions to convey needs and desires
Inconsistent response to sounds	Child may not respond to his/her name being called; deafness may be suspected
Failure to direct the parent's attention to objects or events to share interest	Child may point to juice to request, but does not point to the sky to share interest in an airplane. Child may bring a toy to the parent for help, but does not hold up a toy to show it to the parent for the purpose of conveying interest
Failure to imitate simple adult movement	Child does not wave good-bye or imitate hand movements in games like pat-a-cake
Failure to interact in a reciprocal, back-and-forth manner	Child may interest only on his/her terms. May initiate games (or affection) but not respond when parents initiate them
Lack of interest in simple social games	Child may be more interactive during physical games with parents, such as swinging or tickling, than during social games such as peek-a-boo
Lack of interest in other children	Child may show limited interest in watching or playing with other children
Repetitive and restrictive toy play	Child may show limited interest in toys, may play with toys in an unusual manner (for example, lining them up), may play with toys the same exact way each time, and/or may show limited imaginative

~CONFERENCE~
Evaluation & Treatment of
Autistic Spectrum Disorders

*To refer a family for a comprehensive
transdisciplinary diagnostic evaluation call
Rady Children's Autism Intervention Center at:
877-64AUTISM*