

Early Signs of Autism In Babies and Toddlers



- Child does not make eye contact when others engage with them.
- Child does not smile back when others smile at them.
- Child does not respond to his / her name or to the sound of familiar voices.
- Child has difficulty following objects visually.
- Child does not point , wave goodbye or use other gestures to communicate needs and wants.
- Child does not make noise to get attention of others.
- Child does not respond to or initiate cuddling.
- Child does not imitate movements and facial expressions of others.
- Child does not reach out to others to be picked up.
- Child does not play with others, share interest or enjoyment.
- Child does not ask for help when needed or make other basic requests.

Physician's Guidelines

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by nine months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No meaningful, two-word phrases (not including imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Any** loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age

If these signs are seen in your child then it is important to get them to your Doctor for a thorough examination.

Helpful Web Sites

- Developmental milestones birth through 12+ months
<http://nichcy.org/disability/milestones>
- Overview of early intervention
<http://nichcy.org/babies/overview>
- MCHAT will help determine if a professional should evaluate your child
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/diagnosis/screen-your-child/m-chat-online-test>
- 100 Day Kit for newly diagnosed families
<https://secure.autismspeaks.org/100daykitdownload>
- High Functioning Autism Tool Kit