

RED FLAGS FOR AUTISM

*According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

-  The child does not respond to his/her name.
-  The child cannot explain what he/she wants.
-  The child's language skills are slow to develop or speech is delayed.
-  The child doesn't follow directions.
-  At times, the child seems to be deaf.
-  The child seems to hear sometimes, but not other times.
-  The child doesn't point or wave "bye-bye."
-  The child used to say a few words or babble, but now he/she doesn't.
-  The child throws intense or violent tantrums.
-  The child has odd movement patterns.
-  The child is overly active, uncooperative, or resistant.
-  The child doesn't know how to play with toys.
-  The child doesn't smile when smiled at.
-  The child has poor eye contact.
-  The child gets "stuck" doing the same things over and over and can't move on to other things.
-  The child seems to prefer to play alone.
-  The child gets things for him/herself only.
-  The child is very independent for his/her age.
-  The child does things "early" compared to other children.
-  The child seems to be in his/her "own world."
-  The child seems to tune people out.
-  The child is not interested in other children.
-  The child walks on his/her toes.
-  The child shows unusual attachments to toys, objects, or schedules (i.e., always holding a string or having to put socks on before pants).
-  Child spends a lot of time lining things up or putting things in a certain order.

There is no medical test for autism. Evaluations are based on review of behavioral symptoms to make a diagnosis. Symptoms may show up within the first few months of life, or appear at any time before the age of 3. Screening and diagnosis procedures have been developed to identify children who should receive more intensive assessment or diagnosis, for potential developmental delays.