

Autism Signs

Tips provided to KATU News courtesy of
OHSU's Child Development &
Rehabilitation Center

CDC “Learn the Signs, Act Early”

- Does not babble or coo by 12 months
- Does not gesture (point, wave, nod head) by 12 months
- Does not say single words by 16 months
- Does not say two-word phrases by 24 months
- Any loss of any language or social skills at any age

Early signs of autism

See physician if child does not:

- Before 6 months
 - recognize human voice
 - smile while looking at familiar face
 - distinguishes parents from other adults

- Between 9-12 months
 - babble using a variety of sounds
 - “offer” toys or objects
 - respond to name

- Between 12 and 18 months
 - develop simple pretend play (feed the baby, drive the car)
 - say single words
 - point to objects of interest
 - use other gestures (wave, shake head for no, shrug shoulders)

- Between 18-24 months
 - show interest in other children
 - take turns
 - use eye contact and words or gestures together
 - use two word phrases

Signs of mild autism spectrum disorder

- Preschool (ages 2-5):
 - Does not direct eye contact and facial expression to others
 - Does not show objects of interest to others (Look, Did you see that?)
 - Does not use a number of different gestures
 - Does not play with a wide variety of toys in different ways
 - Does not seek out play with other children
 - Does not pretend to be something other than self (dog, superman, teacher)

- School aged (6-12)
 - No close friendships or best friend
 - Does not get invited to classmate's homes or parties
 - Has very intense, unusual, exclusive area of interest (does not include video games)
 - Cannot have a 2-sided conversation
 - No imaginative or creative play
 - Does not recognize the feelings or emotions of others

- Child needs to have at least 2 if not more of these signs before parents should become concerned about possible autism
- These signs may be caused by a disorder other than autism (child still may need help)
- There are many ways to help children with mild autism

Resources

- www.aspergersyndrome.org (OASIS)
- www.aspergers.com
- Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic
- OHSU/CDRC Autism Program