

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISM

NORMAL DEVELOPMENT

1st Year

Social skills

Joint Attention

- Social Smile-2 months
- Following gaze-8 months
- Follow a point-10 to 12 months

Communication

- Babbling-6 months
- Alternating to- and fro- pattern of vocalization-6 months
- Turning to own name-8 to 10 months
- Waves bye bye-12 months
- "Give it to me" with gestures-11 to 12 months

2nd Year

Social Skills

Joint Attention

- Point to out of reach objects-12 to 14 months
- Point and look between object and parent-14 to 16 months
- Show objects to parents-14 to 16 months
- Point to interesting object-14 to 16 months

Communication

EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM-0 TO 2 YEARS

1st Year

Social skills

- Lack of progressive development of joint attention
- Limited eye contact
- Content to be alone
- May become attached to a hard object

Stereotypical/Repetitive

Behaviors

- Excessive mouthing of objects
- Aversion to social touch

Communication

- Lack of alternating pattern of vocalization-6 months
- Not babbling-12 months (rule out hearing loss)
- Lack of pre-speech gestures (waving, pointing, showing)
- Poor response to name

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2nd Year

Social Skills

- Seems independent (uses advanced motor skills to attain objects rather than requesting)
- Abnormal eye contact
- No pretend play i.e. feed the doll

Stereotypical/Repetitive

Behaviors

- Inappropriate use of objects
- Hand and finger mannerisms- emerge at 3 years
- Hyper or Hyposensitivity to sounds, textures, taste, visual stimuli

Communication

- No words by 16 months
- No two word phrases by 24 months
- Echolalia-stereotypic repetition of words
- Does not respond to name
- Does not follow commands
- Regression of language at any age

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISM

DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA DSM-IV-TR^{1st}

ICD-9 299.00

(I) A total of 6 or more items from (A), (B) and (C) with at least 2 From (A) and 1 each from (B) and (C)

(A) Social Interaction-Impairment in:

- Use of multiple nonverbal behaviors
- Failure to develop peer relationships*
- Lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with other people

(B) Communication:

- Spoken language-either delay or lack of
- If adequate speech, difficulty in initiating or sustaining conversation*
- Stereotyped, repetitive or idiosyncratic language
- Lack of varied, spontaneous, make-believe play or social imitative play

(C) Restricted Repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests and activities:

- Preoccupation with one or more stereotyped/restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal in intensity or focus
- Inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals
- Stereotyped/repetitive motor mannerisms*
- Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects

(II) Delays or abnormal functioning in at least one of the following areas, with onset prior to age 3 years:

(A) Social interaction

(B) Language used in social communication

(C) Symbolic or imaginative play

* Criteria are difficult to apply to children under 3 years

SURVEILLANCE AND SCREENING

Age 0 to 2 years

Surveillance

- Family History of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)-18% increased risk if sibling with ASD
- Assessment of Developmental Milestones-Joint attention deficits the most robust clue to autism
- Parental Concern-80 to 90% recognize child abnormalities <24 months

Screening Tools

- Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales Developmental Profile-6 to 24 months-www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/wetherby-cs-bsdpcsbaspdp-checklist.pdf
- M-CHAT-16 to 48 months-www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr/Diana_L_Robins_Ph.D..html
- STAT-24 to 36 months-<http://stat.vueinnovations.com/about>

Physical Findings Warranting further work-up

- Acquired macrocephaly, microcephaly
- Syndromic exam findings
- Language Delay-Always R/O hearing loss

RESOURCES

Local

Early Childhood education Programs

INTOT (360) 748-4359

ECEAP (360) 736-9391

Growing Together (360) 736-5906

Lewis County Head Start (360) 736-1696

Pope's Kids Place (360) 736-9147, ext 107

Family Support

Parent to Parent—(360)736-9558

State and National

State Diagnostic Centers

Mary Bridge Developmental Center (253) 403-1400

Tacoma UW Autism Center (253) 692-4721
Seattle Children's Autism Center (206) 987-8081

UW Child Development Clinic-Seattle (503) 413-2200

Madigan Army Medical Center for Military Personnel-(253) 968-0261

Internet Resources

Autism Speaks

- www.autismspeaks.org
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

- www.ded.gov/ncbddd/autism

AAP Autism Toolkit

- www2.aap.org/publiced/autismtoolkit.cfm