

# 10 Warning Signs of Autism



## 1. Limited Eye Contact

By 6-12 months, most babies start making eye contact with caregivers. .

## 2. Not Responding to Their Name

By around 6-12 months, most babies respond when their name is called. If a child consistently does not respond, it may indicate a concern.

## 3. Lack of Social Smiling

Typically, babies begin to smile socially by 6-8 weeks. A lack of this social engagement can be an early sign.

## 4. Delayed Speech or Language Development

Not speaking by age 2, or using fewer words than expected, can be a sign. It may include a lack of babbling or difficulty with verbal communication.

## 5. Not Pointing or Using Gestures

By 12 months, most children begin pointing to show interest in objects or to communicate. A child who doesn't use gestures like waving, pointing, or nodding may have developmental concerns.

## 6. Limited Interest in Social Play

Children with autism often show little interest in interactive games like peek-a-boo or may not seek out social engagement with others (e.g., showing shared excitement or affection).

## 7. Repetitive Movements (e.g., Hand Flapping)

Frequent, repetitive movements like hand-flapping, rocking, or spinning objects are common signs of autism, especially if these behaviors are intense or frequent.

## 8. Intense Focus on Specific Objects or Activities

A child who becomes hyper-focused on a single object or activity, such as lining up toys or staring at wheels of a toy for long periods, may show signs of autism.

## 9. Sensory Sensitivities

Overreacting or underreacting to sensory stimuli, like loud noises, bright lights, or textures, is common. For example, a child might cover their ears in response to certain sounds or refuse to eat certain textures of food.

## 10. Regression of Skills

A noticeable loss of previously acquired skills (like language, social interaction, or motor abilities) after a period of normal development, typically between 18-24 months, is a critical warning sign and requires immediate attention.