

DID YOU KNOW?

- ASD is 4.5 times more common in boys than in girls.
- Early intervention improves language, social and communication skills in children with ASD.
- ASD can range from mild to severe and not all autistic children have the same problems.
- Certain medical and mental issues such as gastrointestinal disorders, sleep disorders, seizures, anxiety, phobias, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), may accompany ASD.
- Autism's most obvious signs are usually seen between the ages 2-3, however in some cases they can be noticed as early as 18 months.

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NEWSLETTER

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AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder associated with problems of social, communication and language skills. Problems with social and communication skills are usually the first sign of ASD.

SOME COMMON SIGNS OF ASD

IN BABIES

- 1) No joyful expressions such as smiles by 6 months.
- 2) No sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expression by 9 months.
- 3) No babbling by 12 months.
- 4) No use of gestures such as pointing, waving, reaching by 12 months
- 5) No response to name by 12 months.
- 6) No words by 16 months.
- 7) No meaningful two worded phrases by 24 months.
- 8) Loss of speech, babbling or any social skills at any age.

AT ANY AGE

- 1) Refuses eye contact and prefers to be alone.
- 2) Has delayed language development.
- 3) Repeats word or phrases over and over (echolalia).
- 4) Has very limited interests.
- 5) Has repetitive habits like rocking, flapping, spinning etc.
- 6) Has unusual and intense reactions to sound, light, textures, smell etc.

Please note: some children without ASD have some of these symptoms and vice versa. The diagnosis of ASD can only be made by a team of qualified medical personnel.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

It is best to seek medical attention as early or as soon as possible because; early intervention can reduce symptoms and improve social, communication and language skills.

