

## New Parents' Guide to Autism

It's normal to feel anxiety about your child's development. This guide shows you what to look for and the steps to take if you think your child has autism.

### Does My Child Have Autism?

Recognizing Early Signs

#### Begin Your Journey:

Signs of autism can start as early as 2 - 9 months

**2 - 6 Months**

Lack of eye contact with caregiver and little facial expressions of joy

**9 Months**

No back-and-forth response to sounds, gestures or facial expressions.

**12 Months**

Does not respond to their name, little to no babbling, limited gestures, lack of interest in simple games such as Peekaboo

**18 Months**

No meaningful speech, does not attempt to communicate through gesturing or facial expression, no response to name

**24 Months**

Does not play pretend, very upset by small changes in routine, limited language, difficulty imitating simple gestures

### What Do I Do If I Think My Child Has ASD?

Early Intervention and Diagnosis

**Have your child's pediatrician screen for ASD**

#### Start Early Intervention

Start early intervention as soon as possible, your child can start these services while you seek an ASD diagnosis. ABA therapy & Early intervention typically take a team approach to treatment while a child is 0-3

- Early Intervention Typically Includes:**
- Speech Therapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Developmental Therapy

**Do Not Pause Seeking Out ABA Therapy While in Early Intervention**

**Seek an ASD diagnosis**

### How Can I Make Sure My Child with Autism Enjoys the Best Life Possible?

Autism Therapy Options

#### Choose A Therapy Program as Soon as Possible

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is proven to be the most effective autism therapy.

**Find an ABA Center Near You**