



Early signs of Autism

Is your baby *too good to be true*, makes no demands, does not cry often ... or is your baby *difficult to handle*, highly irritable, never sleeps? Do you or other family members have concerns about your baby's development? One or more of the following can be indicators of **Autistic Spectrum Disorder**, which includes Autism, PDD-NOS and Asperger's Syndrome:

- ❑ Absence of smiles of recognition by six months or thereafter.
- ❑ Acts as though they cannot hear your voice.
- ❑ Absence of acknowledgment when a parent returns home or when a new person enters the room by six months or thereafter.
- ❑ Preoccupation or fascination with objects rather than with people.
- ❑ Impaired social interaction such as back-and-forth sharing of facial expressions by nine months or thereafter.
- ❑ Slow to imitate games like peek-a-boo.
- ❑ Giggling for no reason or when no one else is around as early as four months or thereafter.
- ❑ Extreme sensitivities to light, smell, sound, touch and taste by four months or thereafter.
- ❑ Hand flapping, hand gazing, body rocking or other self-stimulatory behaviors as early as six months.
- ❑ Absence of babbling by 12 months.
- ❑ Absence of back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, or waving by 12 months.
- ❑ Fixation on audio/video stimulation by 18 months.
- ❑ Absence of words by 16 months or odd use of language or unusual tone of voice.
- ❑ Compulsively arranges non-toy items or lines up toys.
- ❑ Plays alone.
- ❑ Absence of initiating two word meaningful phrases by 24 months. Speaks only when coaxed.
- ❑ Any loss of first words or babbling or any loss of social skills at any age.
- ❑ Peculiar or rigid eating, dressing or sleeping habits.
- ❑ Strongly prefers or insists on talking about one subject without variation.
- ❑ Lack of daily progress. A developing child is constantly doing or discovering new things. *Every day without treatment is a lost opportunity for progress.*

Autism affects one in 88 children

If you are a boy, one in 54

**The earlier the treatment
The better the outcome**



Autism can be treated

**FEAT—Families for
Early Autism Treatment**

**www.feat.org
916.303.7405**



Take Action

**Trust your parent-instinct.
Urgently pursue early
diagnosis. Autism is a
pervasive medical condition
requiring effective treatment
like diabetes or cancer.
Children do not outgrow
Autism Spectrum Disorder.**