



Behavior Frontiers
a world without limits

Early Signs of Autism in Babies, Toddlers & Kids

Every child grows at their own pace, but some delays may be an early sign of autism or other developmental differences. If you have concerns, your healthcare practitioner can help guide you.

By 6 Months

Lack of Eye Contact & Limited Smiling

Most babies smile and make eye contact during play.



By 24 Months

Limited Two-Word Phrases or Social Interest

By age 2, toddlers often combine simple words ("more milk") and show interest in playing with other children.



By 9 Months

Not Responding to Name

Babies often turn toward their name and respond socially.



By 3 Years

Difficulty with Conversation & Play

Children usually talk in short sentences and enjoy group play.



By 12 Months

No Babbling or First Words

By this age, babies usually babble and may say their first words like "mama" or "dada."



By 4+ Years

Challenges with Friendships & Flexibility

Children at 4 years often form friendships and adjust to new routines.



By 18 Months

Few Words & Limited Pretend Play

Toddlers often say several single words and begin simple pretend play, like feeding a doll.



ALL AGES

Sensory Sensitivities & Repetitive Behaviors

Some children with autism may react strongly to sounds, textures, or smells, and repeat actions like rocking or lining up toys.



Written by Behavior Frontiers as Part of Their Bright Future Series



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**Looking for Personalized Autism Care?
Behavior Frontiers is Here to Help.**

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