



## RED FLAGS FOR AUTISM

If you have noticed unusual behaviours in your child, or your child is not meeting their developmental milestones, it is important to become familiar with the autism “red flags” which are typically seen before a child turns two. If your child displays a combination of these behaviours, it is very important to have them assessed by a health professional who will determine the course of intervention. Early detection is critical, as the sooner a diagnosis is available, the quicker the intervention process commences and the greater the opportunity for your child to reach their inner potential.

### SOCIAL

Social interaction	Yes	No
doesn't consistently respond to name.		
doesn't sound like they are having a conversation with you when they babble.		
doesn't point to or hold up objects to show people things, share an experience or show that she wants something (for example, doesn't point to a dog and look back at you to make sure you've seen it too, or drops a toy in your lap and walks away instead of holding it up and looking at you).		
copies what she hears from others or from the TV (for example, when you ask if she wants more drink, she echoes back “more drink”).		
doesn't understand simple one-step instructions (for example, “give the block to me” or “show me the dog”).		

### BEHAVIOUR

Nonverbal communication	Yes	No
does not use gestures on their own (for example, doesn't wave bye-bye without being told to, or without copying someone else who is waving.		
does not use eye contact to get someone's attention, (for example, doesn't look at a parent then at a snack to show he wants it)		
does not smile at caregivers without first being smiled at or tickled.		

Relationships and play	Yes	No
does not show interest in other children.		
does not start games like peekaboo or pat-a-cake.		
does not do pretend play, (for example, doesn't feed teddy bear).		

Restricted interests	Yes	No
has an intense interest in certain objects and gets 'stuck' on particular toys or objects (for example: flick the light switch off and on repeatedly, or play only with cars).		
interacts with toys and objects in only one way, rather than more broadly or in the way toys were intended to be played with (for example, only turns the wheels of a toy car rather than pretending to drive the car along the floor).		
is very interested in unusual objects or activities ( <i>for example, drains, metal objects or specific TV ads</i> ).		
focuses narrowly on objects and activities (for example lining up objects).		

Routines	Yes	No
is easily upset by change and needs to follow routines, (for example, needs to sleep, eat or leave the house in the same way every time).		

Repetitive movements	Yes	No
repeats body movements or has unusual body movements, like back-arching, hand-flapping, arm-stiffening and walking on his toes.		

Sensory sensitivities	Yes	No
is extremely sensitive to sensory experiences (for example, gets easily upset by certain sounds, or will eat only foods with a certain texture).		
seeks sensory stimulation (for example, rubs objects on mouth, or face, or seeks vibrating objects like washing machines, or flutters fingers to the side of her eyes to watch the light flicker).		

This information has been adapted from Raising Children Network Australia ([www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au))