

# Red Flags for Autism



## A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

If there are concerns with any of the following, parents can:

- Request that their **Family Doctor** make a referral to a Paediatrician.
- Have their child assessed by a **Speech-Language Pathologist**.

COMMUNICATION RED FLAGS	BEHAVIOURAL RED FLAGS	SOCIAL RED FLAGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No babbling by 11 months of age.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No simple gestures by 12 months (e.g., waving bye-bye).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No single words by 16 months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No two-word phrases by 24 months (noun + verb – e.g., “baby sleeping”).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No response when name is called, causing concern about hearing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Loss of language or social skills at any age.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Odd or repetitive ways of moving fingers or hands.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Oversensitive to certain textures, sounds or lights.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in toys, or plays with them in an unusual way (e.g., lining up, spinning, opening/closing parts rather than using the toy as a whole).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compulsions or rituals (has to perform activities in a special way or certain sequence; is prone to tantrums if rituals are interrupted).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Preoccupations with unusual interests, (such as light switches, doors, fans, wheels).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unusual fears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rarely makes eye contact when interacting with people.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does not play peek-a-boo.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does not point to show things he/she is interested in.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rarely smiles socially.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More interested in looking at objects than at peoples faces.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to play alone.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does not make attempts to get parent’s attention; doesn’t follow/ look when someone is pointing at something.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seems to be “in his/her own world”.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does not respond to parent’s attempts to play, even if relaxed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Avoids or ignores other children when they approach.</li> </ul>

*Developed by Autism Ontario, Simcoe County (legally incorporated as Autism Society Ontario).*

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