

LEARNING THE SIGNS OF AUTISM

Possible signs of autism in babies and toddlers:

- By 6 months, no social smiles or other warm, joyful expressions directed at people
- By 6 months, limited or no eye contact
- By 9 months, no sharing of vocal sounds, smiles or other nonverbal communication
- By 12 months, no babbling
- By 12 months, no use of gestures to communicate (e.g. pointing, reaching, waving etc.)
- By 12 months, no response to name when called
- By 16 months, no words
- By 24 months, no meaningful, two-word phrases•Any loss of any previously acquired speech, babbling or social skills

Possible signs of autism at any age:

- Avoids eye contact and prefers to be alone
- Struggles with understanding other people's feelings
- Remains nonverbal or has delayed language development
- Repeats words or phrases over and over (echolalia)•Gets upset by minor changes in routine or surroundings
- Has highly restricted interests
- Performs repetitive behaviors such as flapping, rocking or spinning
- Has unusual and often intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights and/or colors

If you have concerns about your child please contact your healthcare provider, as early intervention can improve long-term outcomes.