

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is characterized by difficulty interacting and communicating with others. Children with ASD also tend to engage in repetitive behaviors, which may be physical (flapping hands, jumping repetitively) or vocal (repeating videos, making repetitive sounds). Play skills are also often immature and repetitive. Severity varies and each child on the spectrum presents with a unique array of symptoms. While all children with ASD present with some challenges in the areas of language and socialization, some may have a complete lack of spoken language and have more challenging behaviors that disrupt their daily lives and the lives of their families.

Indicators of ASD

- avoids eye contact
- doesn't babble by 1 year
- doesn't speak one word by 16 months
- doesn't respond to name
- doesn't follow simple directions
- loses language or social skills
- doesn't play with toys appropriately
- lines up toys or objects excessively
- doesn't point to indicate what he wants
- doesn't imitate what others do (i.e. blow kisses)
- limited or no back-and-forth conversation
- doesn't understand body language or gestures
- no interest in playing with peers
- repetitive motor movement (i.e. hand flapping)
- repeatedly vocalizes parts of TV shows, books, or previously heard conversations (this could be immediately after hearing them or days later)
- insistence on routines remaining the same; may get upset when asked to move to a different activity or when daily schedule is changed (i.e. a different route is taken)



Diagnostic Evaluations

Diagnostic evaluations are conducted by licensed psychologists to diagnose or rule out ASD.

Behavioral Services

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is considered the treatment of choice for ASD.