



# YOUTH AND AUTSIM



**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurobiological condition, typically identified around 30 months of age, often when a child displays atypical social behavior. These behaviors can include seeming to live in their own world, engaging in repetitive routines and rigid behaviors, and having difficulty communicating and showing social interest.**

## Signs and Symptoms

- Limited or no smiling by 6 months of age
- Little or no back-and-forth smiling or sharing of sounds by the age of 9 months
- Regression in skills previously acquired may be visible (verbal, social, motor skills)
- Not responding when their name is called
- No babbling, pointing, reaching, or waving by 12 months
- No single words by 16 months
- No two-word phrases by 24 months
- Regression in development
- Any loss of previously acquired communication and social skills, usually between 24-36 months

## Treatments

Specialized evaluation and early intervention are crucial for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which varies widely in severity. While there's no cure, treatments like language services, behavioral and educational programs, and sometimes medication can positively impact a child's development and reduce disruptive symptoms. Mental health professionals are key in providing diagnosis and designing these appropriate treatment plans.

## Assessments

Like all assessments, ASD should only be assessed and determined by a trained and licensed mental health professional.

