

AFTER DETECTION... ISSUES TO BEAR IN MIND



Early detection and intervention is essential. The first year of life is a key period for his/her neuro-development process, the construction of the identity, as well as for building the relationship with parents.

There are mental health professionals in the public service who can accurately assess and intervene if necessary.

How to inform families: it is necessary to contain the family and to communicate the concern not over-alarming. A conscious, but not afraid, family is the family that will most probably make the consultation.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

Information about typical child development and early signs in ASD

- **Autism Speaks:** www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/learn-signs
- **Autism navigator:** www.autismnavigator.com
- **Antes de las primeras palabras:** www.antesprimeraspalabras.upf.edu

EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE

NEVER PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

Between
30-40% of
families had
expressed concern
before the first
year of life

Early signs of communication and interaction difficulties, compatible with **Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, appear and can be detected during **the first year of life**.

Population at risk:

- siblings (20%), monozygotic twins (80%) and family history of ASD
- very preterm infants (25%)
- children who suffered long hospitalizations
- adopted children
- abused or neglected children
- children of depressed mothers or other psychiatric disorders
- children with physical or mental disability.

Paediatric consultation, nursery schools and support services for families are naturalistic settings where early signs can be observed and caregiver's concerns attended.



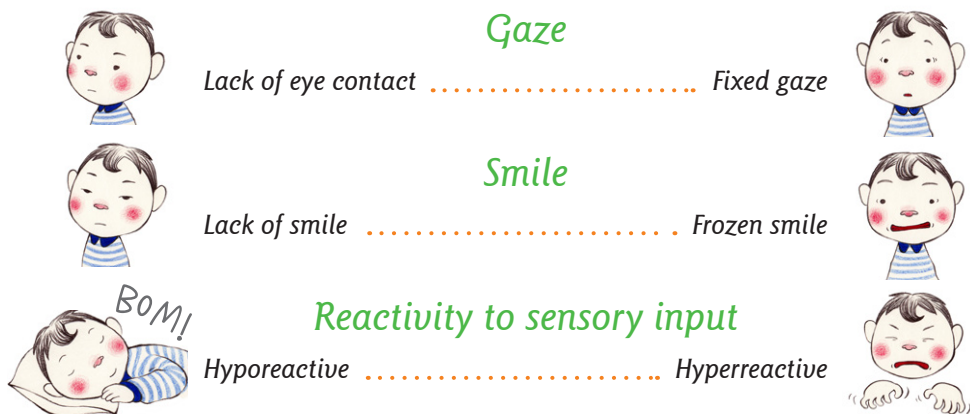
EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM

FROM 3 TO 6 MONTHS

Gaze
Lack of eye contact Fixed gaze

Smile
Lack of smile Frozen smile

Reactivity to sensory input
Hyporeactive Hyperreactive

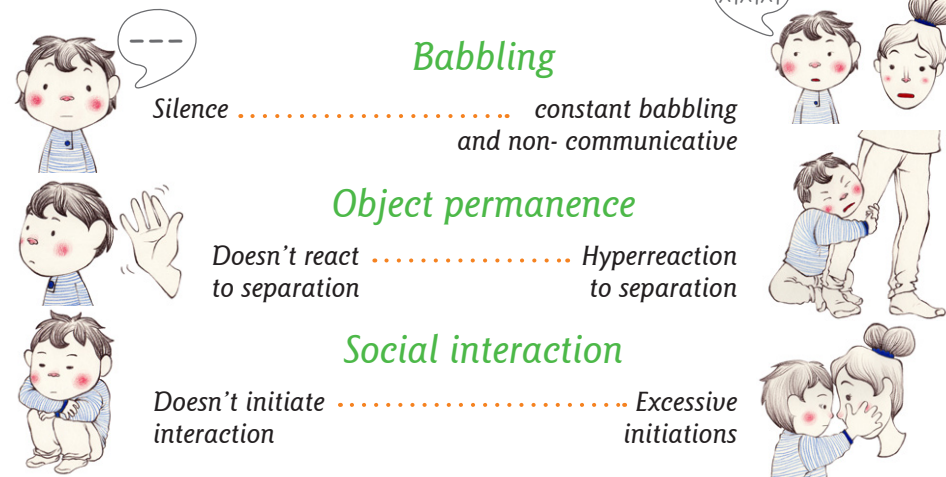


FROM 6 TO 12 MONTHS

Babbling
Silence constant babbling and non-communicative

Object permanence
Doesn't react to separation Hyperreaction to separation

Social interaction
Doesn't initiate interaction Excessive initiations



SEARCH FOR SENSORIALITY in objects or oneself. Stereotyped movements.

SPECIFIC MOTOR IMPAIRMENTS: hypotonic or hypertonic, difficulty to integrate the body's midline, corporal asymmetries and no extinction of primary reflexes.

QUALITY OF RAPPORT: Adults feel a lack of pleasure and enjoyment when interacting with the baby.

FAMILY PATTERN OF INTERACTION: Over-stimulating, detachment or peculiar ways of interacting.



Greater interest in objects than people



EARLY SIGNS

- Presence of pathological signs
- Not achieving the key developmental milestones
- Unusual development of skills and behaviours
- **In the child, the family and the relationship**
- **Over or under demanding**, too noisy or too quiet
- Qualitative - Quantitative
- **> 2-3 signs, being important the intensity, frequency and duration**

The examiners spend **less time** identifying the presence of skills in children with typical development than in children with autism.

Take some time to observe without intervening