



## Early Signs of Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder

Age	Disturbances of Developmental Rates and Sequences	Disturbances of Response to Sensory Stimuli
<b>Year 1</b> <b>(0-12 months)</b>	<p>Regular development usually to age 18-36 months</p> <p>Two possible development patterns:            Unusual Development almost from birth</p> <p>A. "Perfect Baby Syndrome" (PBS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Passive</li> <li>➤ Content to be left alone</li> <li>➤ Demands little from environment</li> <li>➤ Low muscle tone/sack of flour</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>B. "Troublesome Baby Syndrome" (TBS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Irritable</li> <li>➤ Distressed for no reason</li> <li>➤ Difficult to comfort</li> <li>➤ Tense/bag of bicycles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of responsiveness to stimulation</li> <li>➤ May appear deaf</li> <li>➤ Fixation on visual stimuli</li> <li>➤ May not orient to novel stimuli</li> <li>➤ Various sleeping and feeding problems</li> <li>➤ Stereotyped motor patterns may begin</li> </ul>
<b>Year 2</b> <b>(12-24 months)</b>  <b>Year 3</b> <b>(24-36 months)</b>	<p>Arrests or regressions may be noted now after a period of normal development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Uneven motor development may be noted</li> <li>➤ Toilet training may be difficult</li> <li>➤ May have some very advanced skills compared to other deficits</li> <li>➤ May be starting to show signs of early "reading"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May avoid gentle touch but enjoy being tossed or spun around</li> <li>➤ Stereotypic motor patterns may continue and escalate</li> <li>➤ May violently protest being dressed</li> <li>➤ May show marked food preferences</li> <li>➤ Continued odd responses to sounds and visual stimuli</li> <li>➤ Continue to act deaf to some sounds and/or hypersensitive to others</li> <li>➤ May seem oblivious to pain</li> <li>➤ Continue to taste/smell to learn about objects</li> <li>➤ May demonstrate a fascination with round, shiny, or spinning objects</li> </ul>



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Age	Disturbances of Speech/Language/Cognition	Disturbances in Relatedness
<b>Year 1 (0-12 months)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monotonic Vocalizations</li> <li>➤ Limited communicative functions expressed by gestures/vocalizations</li> <li>➤ Limited range of gestures/vocalizations</li> <li>➤ Limited inventory and complexity of action schemes</li> <li>➤ Limited functional object use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of or limited social smile</li> <li>➤ Limited or unusual eye contact</li> <li>➤ Lack of anticipation of social approaches</li> <li>➤ Lack of differential response to people</li> <li>➤ May note tiny changes in environment OR be totally oblivious to great changes</li> <li>➤ Limited shared positive affect</li> </ul>
<b>Year 2 (12-24 months)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ See ages 0-12 months (above)</li> <li>➤ Repetitive or odd play</li> <li>➤ Little exploration in play</li> <li>➤ May not develop meaningful words</li> <li>➤ May not use words to get needs/wants met</li> <li>➤ Limited meaningful gesturing</li> <li>➤ Limited response to simple commands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ See ages 0-12 months (above)</li> <li>➤ Attachment to specific objects begins or becomes more pronounced</li> <li>➤ Resists changes in routine</li> <li>➤ May avoid being comforted when hurt</li> <li>➤ Standoffish manner</li> <li>➤ May choose to line up toys and/or spin them rather than play appropriately</li> </ul>
<b>Year 3 (24-36 months)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Immediate echolalia continues beyond normal limits</li> <li>➤ Delayed echolalia becomes apparent</li> <li>➤ Limited meaningful language</li> <li>➤ Generated sentences more limited than echoed ones</li> <li>➤ Odd voice quality</li> <li>➤ Use of words or phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Responses to changes in routine varies from vague distress to panic</li> <li>➤ May seem withdrawn or unaware of presence of others</li> <li>➤ May show extreme distress with separation from favorite object</li> <li>➤ Social play does not develop from parallel play</li> <li>➤ Shows limited awareness of the feelings of others</li> </ul>