

Early Signs of Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder

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

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