

Early signs of autism in Toddlers.

Autism can normally be diagnosed by the time a child is a toddler. If the parents have been vigilant in tracking the normal developmental milestones and know what symptoms are the indicators. Any odd behaviours or abnormalities in development, especially in very young children, may be dismissed as mild or transient and a diagnosis can be delayed.

Slow to walk, slow to talk, inability to understand simple requests, and odd repetitive behaviours are a few of the characteristics on the autism symptoms checklist for toddlers. Early diagnosis is critical in beginning treatment and developmental training at the earliest possible age. If you suspect a development delay, between two and four years old is a great time to get an assessment.

Your health visitor will be able to carry out a CHAT (checklist for autism in toddlers) assessment from about 18 months, If you have any worries then please ask your health visitor or G.P.

Autism signs normally become evident during the toddler years, Early detection is advantageous to begin appropriate interventions as young as possible. The average age for an autism diagnosis is between three and four years old. Yet many parents first become concerned around 18 months old.

The following is a quick list of common autism symptoms to check if you think you need to further investigate the level of your child's development.

- ⌘ Has problems speaking or understanding speech
- ⌘ Does not interact with other children
- ⌘ Seems distant to surroundings
- ⌘ Is uncommunicative
- ⌘ Has uncontrollable temper tantrums
- ⌘ Insists on routine and resists change
- ⌘ Engages in repetitive actions

An assessment can be done by a paediatrician who can also rule out physical conditions which may be affecting your child's behaviour.

Earlier signs may include

- ⌘ Not babbled or cooed by 1 year of age
- ⌘ Not gestured, pointed, or waved by 1 year of age
- ⌘ Not spoken a single word by age 16 month
- ⌘ Not spoken a 2-word phrase by 2 years of age
- ⌘ Loses previously achieved language or social skills at any time

One tip for parents who suspect a development delay would be to take plenty of home videos. Movement and behaviour of your child over multiple development stages can then be observed by doctors and others involved in their diagnosis.