

Checklist of 16 Early Signs of Autism



THE EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM UNFOLD FROM 9 TO 16 MONTHS



The early signs of autism are easy to miss. Autism can be diagnosed by 18-24 months, but it's not usually diagnosed until 4-5 years. We developed a Checklist to help you detect autism before it's usually diagnosed.

This Checklist is a companion to our Lookbook, which illustrates the 16 early signs of autism that unfold from 9 to 16 months. Explore the Lookbook at BabyNavigator.com. You can also download, share, and print an 8-page version or a 1-page glimpse of *16 Early Signs of Autism by 16 Months*.



How to use this Checklist: Check yes or no for each early sign of autism that describes your child's behavior. You can click on each question to see photos of each early sign in the Lookbook. The number of early signs will be summed for you. Any one of these signs may not be a problem. But in combination, they may signal a need to conduct a screening or diagnostic evaluation.

Name: Date: Age in Months: Filled Out By:

CHECKLIST OF EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM

YES NO

1. Is it hard to get your baby to look at you?
2. Does your baby rarely share enjoyment with you?
3. Does your baby rarely share their interests with you?
4. Does your baby rarely respond to their name or other bids for interaction?
5. Does your baby show a limited use of gestures such as showing and pointing?
6. Is it hard for your baby to look at you and use a gesture and sound?
7. Does your baby do little to no imitating of other people or pretending?
8. Does your baby use your hand as a tool?
9. Is your baby more interested in objects than people?
10. Does your baby have unusual ways of moving their fingers, hands, or body?
11. Does your baby repeat unusual movements with objects?
12. Does your baby develop rituals and get very upset over change?
13. Does your baby have an excessive interest in particular objects or activities?
14. Is your baby very focused on or attached to unusual objects?
15. Does your baby have unusual reactions to sounds, sights, or textures?
16. Does your baby show interest in unusual sensory experiences?

Total Number of Early Signs of Autism: [Calculate Total](#)

WHAT IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS SOME EARLY SIGNS OF AUTISM?

If your child shows 4 or more of these early signs, use our free online [SoCo CheckUp](#) for children 9-18 months to screen your baby for autism.

If your child shows 8 or more of these early signs, ask your doctor for a referral for a diagnostic evaluation.

Talk to your child's doctor or teacher about any of these early signs or contact your local early intervention program. Share this Checklist with them.



BABY NAVIGATOR — WHAT EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

Go to BabyNavigator.com to find out what every parent needs to know about early learning. What you do and say can make all the difference.