

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)	Regular development usually to age 18-36 monthsTwo possible development patterns: Unusual Development almost from birth A. "Perfect Baby Syndrome" (PBS) > Passive > Content to be left alone > Demands little from environment > Low muscle tone/sack of flourORB. "Troublesome Baby Syndrome" (TBS) > Irritable 	 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) Year 3 (24-36 months)	 Arrests or regressions may be noted now after a period of normal development 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" 	 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 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)	 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 	 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)	 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 	 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)	 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 	 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