



**Your
child
might
have
autism...**

We can help.

Autism Ontario has chapters serving families and communities across Ontario.

Call your local chapter to talk with a parent to learn more about services for families of children with autism.

AutismONTARIO
see the potential

Signs* of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Early Childhood

If you observe items on the following list, it may mean that your child is developing differently. Parents should discuss this with their family doctor or pediatrician and ask about a referral for further assessment.

- Doesn't point to show others things he or she is interested in
- Inconsistent or reduced use of eye contact with people outside the family
- Rarely smiles when looking at others or does not exchange back and forth warm, joyful expressions
- Does not spontaneously use gestures such as waving, reaching or pointing with others
- Does not respond to gestures and facial expressions used by others
- More interested in looking at objects than at people's faces
- May be content to spend extended periods of time alone
- Doesn't make attempts to get parent's attention; doesn't follow/look when someone is pointing at something; doesn't bring a toy or other item to parent to show them
- Inconsistent in responding when his or her name is called
- Seems to be in his or her "own world"
- Doesn't respond to parent's attempts to play, even if relaxed
- Avoids or ignores other children when they approach or interact
- No words by 16 months or no two-word phrases by 24 months
- Any loss of previously acquired language or social skills
- Odd or repetitive ways of moving or holding fingers, hands or whole body (rocking, pacing). Walks on toes.
- Displays a strong reaction to certain textures, sounds or lights (e.g., may reject clothing or want to be completely covered, put hands over ears, stare at lights)
- May appear indifferent to pain or temperature
- Lacks interest in toys, or plays with them in an unusual way (e.g., lining up, spinning, smelling, opening/closing parts rather than using the toy as a whole)
- May engage in prolonged visual inspection of objects (e.g., may stare along edges, dangle string or move items closely in front of his/her eyes)
- Insists on routines (has to perform activities in a special way or certain sequence; requires a particular route or food and is difficult to calm if even small changes occur)
- Preoccupation with unusual interests, such as light switches, doors, fans, wheels – difficult to distract from these activities
- Unusual fears but may not seek comfort from adults

*Includes DSM 5 changes.

Autism is treatable. Early intervention is critical. Act early.

Autism Ontario is here to help!

Call us to learn more about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autism Ontario is a not-for-profit charitable organization that is a strong voice for people with ASD. We work to ensure that every person with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society. Our programs include:



POTENTIAL
PROGRAMME



CALYPSO
finding camp experiences for children with autism



ABACUS
HELP FOR PARENTS

spirale
finding professional services for children with autism

Autism
ONTARIO
KNOWLEDGE BASE

Visit our site to learn more about Autism Ontario.

www.autismontario.com or 1-800-472-7789