

Be alert for characteristics in an individual that may indicate autism spectrum disorder:

- does not babble, point or make meaningful gestures by the age of 1 year
- does not respond to their name by the age of 1 year
- avoids eye contact
- has delayed speech and language skills
- play lacks the variety or make-believe that is appropriate to their developmental level
- flaps hands, rocks body, or spins in circles
- wants to be alone
- repeats words or phrases over and over (echolalia)
- gets upset by minor changes
- has obsessive interests
- gives unrelated answers to questions
- has trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own feelings

more common in
young children



more common in
older children,
adolescents and
adults