

# DIAGNOSE AUTISM EARLY

The term Autism applies to a spectrum of conditions including:

- Asperger Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified
- Rett’s Disorder
- Childhood Integrative Disorder

As early as 14 months, children with autism display difficulties in communication, social skills and motor skills.

Intervention in the first two years is essential to address autism. Remember, 75% of brain development takes place by 2 years of age.

## Early Signs of Autism



6 months

No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions



9 months

No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions



12 months

No back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing and no babbling



16 months

No spoken words or speech limited to parroting what has been heard



24 months

Repetitive behavior and Social impairment

## What is the Issue?



Are you aware that most cases of autism in India are diagnosed late?

About two thirds of those with autism in India have not consulted doctors or visited rehabilitation centers. Early detection of autism can help in offering resources, support and training that children need to reach their full potential. However, parents and physicians downplay early signs of autism, suggesting that the symptoms are ‘just a phase’ or a sign of a minor delay in development.

**Approximately 50% of children seeking a diagnosis are put on a wait and watch list and the diagnosis is deferred.**

## What needs to be done ?



Do not fear autism. Be proactive about getting your child diagnosed for early behavioral symptoms of autism.



Create awareness about the necessity of early diagnosis of autism.



Train professionals on the use of diagnostic tools such as the Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism, Childhood Autism Rating Scale and Gilliam Autism Rating Scale



Build social acceptance of persons with autism to ensure that children get the crucial help they need.

To understand the reasons behind these statistics and their possible solutions further, look out for our upcoming issues of Fast Facts by visiting the following links:

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