



**DETECTING EARLY
SIGNS OF AUTISM**



When is it possible for parents to notice early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

Parents and caregivers may notice signs of missed milestones or regression of skills from 12 months. The diagnosis of Autism may be received from 18 months.

How can early detection and treatment can help improve the lives of affected children?

Early diagnosis and treatment of ASD is imperative to achieve the highest level of independence and quality of living for children impacted by the disorder. The outcomes and overall improvements are significant in the areas of communication, reduction or prevention of maladaptive behaviors, and building an appropriate social skills repertoire.

What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the **#1** recommended treatment for children with ASD (surgeon general, APA). ABA works with the child and family to build skills needed to fill in gaps in learning while reducing or replacing behaviors that are not appropriate. ABA treatment is individualized for each child and parent's participation is vital in generalizing new skills across environments.

Common areas of treatment found in ABA programs include:

- 1) Increasing communication skills**
- 2) Appropriate play skills**
- 3) Reduction and replacement of maladaptive behavior**
- 4) Increase food repertoires and age-appropriate eating skills**
- 5) Toilet training**
- 6) Desensitization of sounds, textures, tastes, or activities that are aversive to a child with ASD**
- 7) Social skills training (1:1, small groups, and larger groups)**





2. What are some of those early warning signs parents should be looking for?

Early key indicators for ASD may include:

- 1) Lack of or diminishment of babbling or missed milestone for beginning sounds, words, or phrases**
- 2) Lack of eye contact or orientation to attend to those speaking with no or reduced interest in those around him or her**
- 3) Lack of pointing and indicating people or objects of interest**
- 4) Lack of imitation of sounds or movements**
- 5) No response or diminished response to his or her name being called**
- 6) Repetitive or stereotypic behaviors such as insistence of lining up objects or fixation on a particular activity**
- 7) Maladaptive behaviors outside of expected typical development**



“Circle City ABA’s culture is like no other. It is a place surrounded by people with an incredible passion to serve.” -Jennifer Lanham

3. How can parents get their child the help they need to learn, grow and thrive if they suspect ASD?

When a parent suspects a child may have key indicators of ASD, a first step is to contact their primary care physician for a complete check-up to rule out other medical concerns, and to explain all concerns and observations.


Families may also contact pediatric psychologists, pediatric psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians, and family pediatricians for full diagnostic testing.

The gold standard of testing for ASD is the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-3), paired with the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R), parent interviews, and other scales to get a full picture of strengths and deficits.

If a diagnosis is received, the parent will need the full medical diagnostic report, along with a referral to ABA to bring to a local ABA provider to begin the process toward beginning services.

American Psychiatric Association (2011). DSM-5 (Retrieved 16.04.13), from www.dsm5.org.

Centers for Disease Control (2014). Diagnostic Criteria for 299.00 Autism Spectrum Disorder (Retrieved 30.11.14), from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/hcp-dsm.html>.



**A destination
where play
meets progress!**



Circle City ABA values progress, play, and passion above all else. We aim to serve every child who needs ABA services. We accept Medicaid and most commercial insurance. If insurance does not provide coverage, Circle City ABA works with each family directly.

Circle City ABA's mission is to enrich and empower children with Autism through applied behavior analysis therapy.

Circle City ABA is proud to be family-owned and operated.



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