

Where to turn for help

If you are concerned that your child may be showing some of these early warning signs, your doctor may recommend that you seek the advice of a certified speech-language pathologist, such as the professionals at Princeton Speech-Language & Learning Center.

PSLLC is committed to helping children improve their ability to interact, play and communicate with others. Widely known for our thorough evaluations and comprehensive reports, PSLLC can be an integral part of your child's evaluation team. We administer a variety of communication assessments for children, including those who may be on the autism spectrum.

Our speech-language pathologists have expertise in a multitude of interventions to help children with autism and communication difficulties. PSLLC's services often supplement other programs and therapies, and because we know that one size does not fit all, we tailor our treatment to meet each child's specific needs.

Most importantly, we work together with a child's family members, caregivers and other professionals to ensure that newly learned skills are carried over into your child's everyday environment.

Our Services Include:

- Early Screening Services
- Individualized Assessment
- Feeding Evaluations and Therapy
- Parent/Caregiver Training
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Toddler and Preschool Groups
- Social Skills Groups
- Computer-based Intervention and Prescriptive Software Selection



Listen. Learn. Speak. Interact.

Communicating without words:



Is your baby connecting with you?

Are you worried about Autism?

Is your baby **connecting** with you?



If you think about it, your baby has been communicating with you since birth. (Remember that first cry in the delivery room?) Now, you're probably looking forward to the day when your baby utters that first, precious "Mama" or "Dada."

In between those two milestones, your baby is developing critical communication and social skills each day. Acts as simple as a shared smile or eye contact show he or she is trying to connect with you and your family.

However, if those nonverbal cues are missing, it could be an early sign of a developmental language delay or, in some instances, an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASDs are on the rise, impacting about 1 in 150 children, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Act Early

New research shows possible signs of autism can be seen in babies as young as 4 months old. Yet, the CDC says fewer than half of children with a developmental or behavioral disability such as autism are identified before entering school.

The earlier an ASD is diagnosed, the earlier necessary interventions can begin. Early intervention is invaluable, and has repeatedly been shown to improve a child's chances of success in school and in everyday life.

If you have concerns about your baby's development, you should share them as soon as possible with your pediatrician.

Early Warning Signs

Every baby develops at a different pace, but most children acquire many of the same skills at the same ages. Here are a few early warning signs of a potential developmental delay or autism spectrum disorder, according to the CDC.

By 4 months:

- Doesn't respond to loud noises.
- Doesn't notice hands.
- Doesn't follow moving objects with eyes.
- Doesn't smile at people.
- Doesn't babble.
- Doesn't pay attention to new faces or seems very frightened by them.
- Doesn't grasp and hold objects.

By 8 months:

- Refuses to cuddle.
- Shows no affection for parents and caregivers.
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people.
- Doesn't turn head to locate sounds.
- Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds.
- Doesn't actively reach for objects.
- Shows no interest in games of peek-a-boo.

By 12 months:

- Doesn't search for objects that are hidden while he watches.
- Says no single words ("mama" or "dada").
- Doesn't learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking head.
- Doesn't point to objects or pictures.
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had.
- Doesn't crawl.
- Cannot stand when supported.

