








Possible Red Flags for Autism Spectrum Disorders





The following red flags may indicate a child is at risk for atypical development, and in need of an immediate evaluation. Please consult with your child's pediatrician if you see one or more of the following:

-  No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
-  No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by nine months
-  No babbling by 12 months
-  No back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching, or waving by 12 months
-  No words by 15 months
-  No two-word meaningful phrases without imitating or repetition by 24 months
-  Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age

Reference: First Signs <http://www.firstsigns.org/concerns/flags.htm> (Retrieved January 30, 2008)




Common Myths

(The following statements are all false!)





-  Children with autism are without emotions.
-  Persons with autism have special talents or skills (savant syndrome)- occurs in less than 5% of people with autism
-  Autism is caused by bad parenting
-  Autism is caused by immunizations

Evidence-based Interventions




Scientificallly-based Intervention strategies

-  Pivotal Response Training
-  Discrete trial training
-  Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Promising Practices

-  Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
-  Structured Teaching (TEACCH)
-  Social Stories
-  Sensory Integration

Anecdotal support

-  Visual schedules
-  Cue Cards
-  Color-Coded Materials

Reference: Simpson, R. L. (2005). Evidence-based practices and students with autism spectrum disorders. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. 20, 140-149.