

AUTISM.A.L.A.R.M.

Autism is prevalent

- 1 out of 6 children are identified with a developmental disorder and/or behavioral problem
- Approximately 1 in 88 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
- Developmental disorders have subtle signs and may be easily missed

Listen to parents

- Early signs of autism are often present before 18 months
- Parents usually DO have concerns that something is wrong
- Parents generally DO give accurate and quality information
- When parents do not spontaneously raise concerns, ask if they have any

Act early

- Make screening and surveillance an important part of your practice (as endorsed by the AAP)
- Know the subtle differences between typical and atypical development
- Learn to recognize red flags
- Use validated screening tools and identify problems early
- Improve the quality of life for children and their families through early and appropriate intervention

Refer

- To Early Intervention or a local school program (do not wait for a diagnosis)
- To an autism specialist, or team of specialists, immediately for a definitive diagnosis
- To audiology and rule out a hearing impairment
- To local community resources for help and family support

Monitor

- Schedule a follow-up appointment to discuss concerns more thoroughly
- Look for other conditions known to be associated with autism (eg, seizures, GI, sleep, behavior)
- Educate parents and provide them with up-to-date information
- Advocate for families with local early intervention programs, schools, respite care agencies, and insurance companies
- Continue surveillance and watch for additional or late signs of autism and/or other developmental disorders
- Continue to provide a medical home

For More Information: www.cdc.gov/autism and www.aap.org/autism



American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The recommendations in this document do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

This project was initially funded by a cooperative agreement between the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SURVEILLANCE AND SCREENING ALGORITHM: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASDs)

