

### ★ Impaired communication

- Does not consistently respond to name or playful sounds
- No purposeful words or functional language by 12 months of age (labeling and pop out words are not functional communication)

### ★ Decreased eye contact

- Eye contact is difficult to gain during play with objects, or non-preferred tasks
- Child may only give eye contact when adult is across the room, not up close
- Child’s eye contact may be fleeting, not sustained and coordinated with vocalizations

### ★ Lack of gesturing

- Child does not point to request or make choices
- Child does not shake or nod his or her head
- Child does not push items away to refuse
- Child does not bring objects to show parent or caregiver frequently by extending object out and making eye contact
- Child does not use motor actions to continue social games

### ★ Attention to irrelevant stimuli in environment

- Child is paying attention to objects more than people and faces
- Child appears unaware of his or her surroundings and lacks motivation to engage with others

### ★ Repetitive behaviors and/or ridged play

- Child repeats same play act or series of play acts multiple times
- Child does not consistently tolerate changes to play, adult manipulating objects, or changes to routines and transitions in general. (ex: food must be prepared a certain way or child takes objects in and out repeatedly during play, etc.)
- Self-stimulatory behaviors: (spins wheels, flaps arms, postures body, hyper focuses on lights, fans, etc.)

### ★ Delayed imitation

- Child does not copy what the adult does. This can include action on objects (bang a drum), actions with the child’s own body (copy clapping hands or patting head), oral facial actions (copy pursing lips or sticking out tongue) and sounds or words

### ★ Skill regression and/or inconsistent performance of skills

- Child used to say a word, have certain play skills, or eat certain foods and no longer does
- Child may say a word or perform a certain action one day and then never do it again or do it infrequently
- Child does things on their own terms, or when he or she “wants to”

**Autism is a SPECTRUM, each child is different and may not have all of these symptoms**