

## **Autism “Red Flags”**

There is no single behavior that is always typical of autism and when autism presents itself it is unique to each child. What is common in children with autism are “red flags” or warning signs that something isn’t quite right, typically in the areas of communication skills and social interactions.

The following is a list of autism “red flags” compiled by The Child Neurology Society. The presence of any of these warning signs should prompt an evaluation by a Child Neurologist and Child Neuropsychologist.

- **No babbling by 12 months**
- **No pointing or gesturing by 12 months**
- **No single word phrases by 24 months**
- **Loss of previously acquired skills, especially language**
- **Lack of joint attention (child does not draw other’s attention to objects in the environment)**
- **Child does not respond to his/her name**
- **Lack of pretend, imitative and functional play appropriate to developmental age**
- **Failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental age**
- **Child does not imitate others’ behaviors**
- **Child is rigid in routines or has very difficult transitions**
- **Child engages in repetitive or stereotypical behavior**
- **Child has unusual or exaggerated responses to sensory stimuli (for example covers ears or becomes very upset with loud noises, cannot have tags in clothing, will avoid foods of certain textures)**
- **Child has trouble relating to others or does not have an interest in other people at all**
- **Child avoids eye contact and wants to be alone**
- **Child appears to be unaware when other people talk to them but responds to others sounds**
- **Child repeats or echoes words or phrases said to them, or repeats words or phrases in place or normal language (echolalia)**
- **Any persistent family concerns about their child’s development or behavior**

- ❖ Jessica Avart, PsyD provides early identification screening, assessment and on-going treatment of individuals who may have an autism spectrum disorder

