

**AUTISM**  
Awareness

# WHAT IS AUTISM?



ASD is a neurological condition that affects the way a person experiences and interacts with the world.

Autism Spectrum Disorder affects individuals in different ways, and can range from very mild to severe.

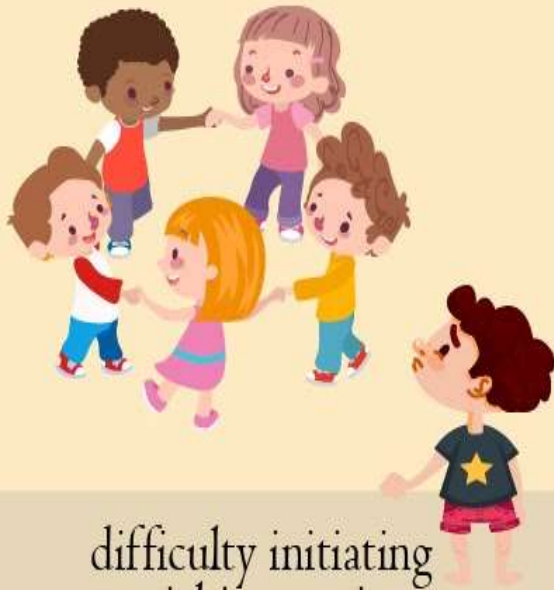


**BOYS ARE 4X MORE  
LIKELY TO HAVE ASD  
EFFECTS OF AUTISM  
BOYS VS GIRLS**



# THE THREE FUNCTIONAL LEVELS OF AUTISM

## ASD Level 1 Requiring Support



difficulty initiating  
social interactions

organisation and planning  
problems can hamper  
independence

## ASD Level 2 Requiring Substantial Support



social interactions  
limited to narrow special  
interests

frequent restricted/  
repetitive behaviours

## ASD Level 3 Requiring Very Substantial Support



severe deficits in  
verbal and nonverbal social  
communication skills

great distress/difficulty  
changing actions or focus

# Autism Spectrum Disorder

## Early Signs



ASD typically appears during the early years of life.

Early assessment and intervention are crucial to a child's long-term success.

no smiling at people by 6 months

no babbling, pointing, or meaningful gestures by 12 months

no two-word phrases by 24 months

no one-word communications by 16 months



poor eye contact

using or focusing in on parts of toys or objects

loss of skills at any time



not showing items or sharing interests



**Talk to your pediatrician about concerns.**

not responding to sounds, voices, or name



National  
Autism Center™  
at  
May Institute

877.313.3833  
nationalautismcenter.org

# Early warning signs include:

- no social smiling by 6 months
- no one-word communications by 16 months
- no two-word phrases by 24 months
- no babbling, pointing, or meaningful gestures by 12 months
- poor eye contact
- not showing items or sharing interests
- unusual attachment to one particular toy or object
- not responding to sounds, voices, or name
- loss of skills at any time

# What are the signs of autism?

- The timing and intensity of autism's early signs vary widely. Some infants show hints in their first months. In others, behaviors become obvious as late as age 2 or 3.
- Not all children with autism show all the signs. Many children who *don't* have autism show a few. **That's why professional evaluation is crucial.**

# SIGNS AT 6-9 MONTHS

- Few or no big smiles or other warm, joyful and engaging expressions
- Limited or no eye contact

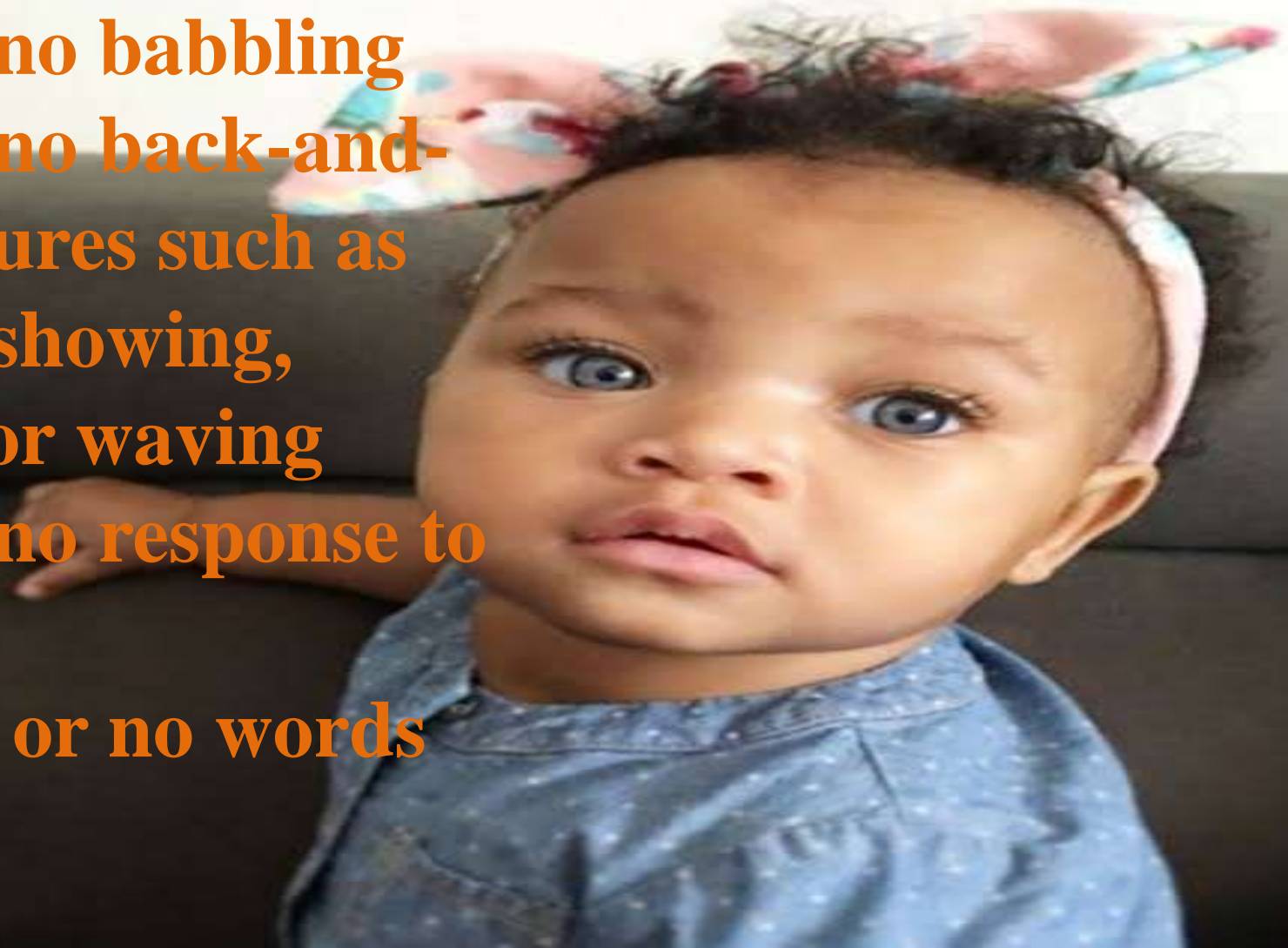
- Little or no back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions





# SIGNS AT 12-16 MONTHS

- Little or no babbling
- Little or no back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving
- Little or no response to name
- Very few or no words



# SIGNS AT ANY AGE



- **Loss of previously acquired speech, babbling or social skills**
- **Avoidance of eye contact**
- **Persistent preference for solitude**
- **Difficulty understanding other people's feelings**
- **Delayed language development**
- **Persistent repetition of words or phrases (echolalia)**
- **Resistance to minor changes in routine or surroundings**
- **Restricted interests**
- **Repetitive behaviors (flapping, rocking, spinning, etc.)**
- **Unusual and intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights and/or colors**

Thank  
You 😊

