- immunoglobulins and risk of autism. *Pediatrics*. 2010;126(4):656–664.
- Schultz ST. Does thimerosal or other mercury exposure increase the risk for autism? A review of current literature. *Acta Neurobiol Exp (Wars)*. 2010;70(2):187–195.
- Taylor LE, Swerdfeger AL, Eslick GD. Vaccines are not associated with autism: an evidence-based meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies. *Vaccine*. 2014;32(29):3623–3629.
- Uno Y, Uchiyama T, Kurosawa M, et al. Early exposure to the combined measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and thimerosal-containing vaccines and risk of autism spectrum disorder. *Vaccine*. 2015;33(21):2511–2516.
- US Food and Drug Administration. *Thimerosal in vaccines*. http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/SafetyAvailabi 2014.
- World Health Organization. *Global vaccine safety: Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, report of meeting held 6–7 June* 2012.
  - http://www.who.int/vaccine\_safety/committee/reports/Jun\_2012.
- Yau VM, Green PG, Alaimo CP, et al. Prenatal and neonatal peripheral blood mercury levels and autism spectrum disorders. *Environ Res.* 2014;133:294–303.
- Yoshimasu K, Kiyohara C, Takemura S, et al. A meta-analysis of the evidence on the impact of prenatal and early infancy exposures to mercury on autism and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder in the childhood. *Neurotoxicology*. 2014;44:121–131.

\*Based on the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses website at http://www.qsen.org.

## **Clinical Manifestations and Diagnostic Evaluation**

Children with ASD demonstrate core deficits primarily in social interactions, communication, and behavior. Failure of social interaction and communication development is one of the hallmarks of ASD. Parents of autistic children have reported their