1. Concepts and Symptoms [1]

(Brief: What is autism and how to tell if a child has autism?)

1. What is autism?

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person’s social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a “spectrum condition” that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

1. Symptoms (in early childhood)

1.Speaks later than typical or not at all (nonverbal)

2.Repetition in language or movement, such as repeating the same word or sounds, hand flapping, or any repeated movement

3.Atypical nonverbal communication, including avoiding eye contact, giving few facial expressions, or having a monotone

4.Prefers solitary or parallel play rather than engaging in associative or cooperative play with other children

5.Extremely distressed by changes, including new foods or changes in schedule

6.Preference for predictable, structured play over spontaneous or make-believe play

7.Strong, persistent interest on specific topic, part of a toy, or item

1. Diagnosis

(Brief: How to get a diagnosis for children showing autism symptoms?)

If you think your child may be showing signs of autism, it is recommended that you make an appointment with your child’s General Practitioner (GP), or child and family health nurse.

Your GP or child and family health nurse will ask you questions about your child’s development. They may also examine and observe your child. This will help them rule out other possible health or developmental issues.

If they think your child has some of the [characteristics](https://thespectrum.org.au/autism-diagnosis/checklist-early-childhood/) of autism, they may refer your child for further assessment. [2]

There are some platforms where you can get more information about autism diagnosis:

1. [Getting an autism diagnosis for children from The Spectrum](https://thespectrum.org.au/autism-diagnosis/children/)
2. [Book an assessment at Autism SA](https://autismsa.org.au/autism-diagnosis/autism-diagnosis-process/how-do-i-get-a-diagnosis/)
3. [Getting a diagnosis from Autism Awareness](https://www.autismawareness.com.au/diagnosis/children/getting-a-diagnosis)
4. [Developmental assessment service from The WCH Child Development Unit](https://www.wch.sa.gov.au/patients-visitors/children/care-and-support/child-development-unit)
5. Educational Supports

(Brief: How to help an autistic child as a parent or a teacher?)

1. As a parent: [Parenting a child on the autism spectrum](https://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/parenting-child-with-autism)

Resources: [Family workshops from AutismSA](https://autismsa.org.au/training-consulting/workshops/family-workshops/), [Therapeutic Social Work from AutismSA](https://autismsa.org.au/supports-services/social-work-help-supporting-your-goals/),

1. As a teacher: [How do you teach students with autism spectrum](https://www.positiveaction.net/blog/tips-for-teaching-autistic-children)

Resources: [Resource kits for teachers from Autism Awareness Australia](https://www.autismawareness.com.au/resources/educational)

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1. Service Providers

(Brief: Service providers providing all kinds of service to help autistic children)

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References

[1] <https://www.autism-society.org/what-is/>

[2]<https://thespectrum.org.au/autism-diagnosis/children/>