



## **Warning Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Does anyone you know show these signs?

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities caused by a problem with the brain. They are increasingly common, and are now estimated to affect one in every 110 American children. It is important to identify and diagnose ASDs and obtain intervention services as early as possible.

A child or adult with an ASD might:

- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Not point at objects to show interest by 14 months
- Not play “pretend” games (e.g. pretend to feed a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact and want to be alone
- Have trouble understanding others’ feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Have delayed speech and language skills
- Repeat words or phrases over and over (echolalia)
- Give unrelated answers to questions
- Appear to be unaware when other people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have obsessive interests
- Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles
- Have unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel
- Repeat actions over and over again
- Lose skills they once had (e.g. stop saying words)
- Have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions

**People showing signs of ASDs should be evaluated.**

**To find out who to speak to in your area, call the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities 1-800-695-0285.**

**Visit NYacts at [www.nyacts.com](http://www.nyacts.com) to learn more about supports and services in New York State.**