

WARNING



Knowing when to seek help for your child can be worrisome. The CDC has guidance on when a caregiver should talk with someone who specializes in early childhood development.

When in doubt ASK. Speak with someone who can help, like your child's doctor, or your local FDLRS Child Find Specialist. Seeking early intervention is the best thing YOU can do.



If by the end of **2 months** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't respond to loud sounds
- ☐ Doesn't watch things as they move
- ☐ Doesn't smile at people
- ☐ Doesn't bring hands to mouth
- ☐ Can't hold head up when pushing up when on tummy



If by the end of **4 months** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't watch things as they move
- ☐ Doesn't smile at people
- ☐ Can't hold their head steady
- ☐ Doesn't coo or make sounds
- ☐ Doesn't bring things to the mouth
- ☐ Doesn't push down with legs when feet are placed on a hard surface
- ☐ Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions



If by the end of **6 months** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't try to get things that are in reach
- ☐ Shows no affection for caregivers
- ☐ Doesn't respond to sounds around him
- ☐ Has difficulty getting things to their mouth
- ☐ Doesn't make vowel sounds ("ah", "eh", "oh")
- ☐ Doesn't roll over in either direction
- ☐ Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds
- ☐ Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- ☐ Seems very floppy, like a rag doll



If by the end of **9 months** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't bear weight on legs with support
- ☐ Doesn't sit with help
- ☐ Doesn't babble ("mama", "baba", "dada")
- ☐ Doesn't play any games involving back-and-forth play
- ☐ Doesn't respond to their name
- ☐ Doesn't seem to recognize familiar people
- ☐ Doesn't look where you point
- ☐ Doesn't transfer toys from one hand to the other

Speak with your child's doctor or your local FDLRS Child Find Specialist the moment you notice any of the red flags mentioned above. Early intervention is effective. To read more about age-appropriate milestones visit <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>. To locate your local FDLRS center visit <https://www.fdlrs.org/find-a-center>.



CDC's "**Learn the Signs. Act Early.**" program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.



The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and state general revenue funds.

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If by the end of **1 year** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't crawl
- ☐ Can't stand when supported
- ☐ Doesn't search for things that they see you hide.
- ☐ Doesn't say single words like "mama" or "dada"
- ☐ Doesn't learn gestures like waving or shaking head
- ☐ Doesn't point to things
- ☐ Loses skills they once had



If by the end of **2 years** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't use 2-word phrases (for example, "drink milk")
- ☐ Doesn't know what to do with common things, like a brush, phone, fork, spoon
- ☐ Doesn't copy actions and words
- ☐ Doesn't follow simple instructions
- ☐ Doesn't walk steadily
- ☐ Loses skills they once had



If by the end of **3 years** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Falls a lot or has trouble with stairs
- ☐ Drools or has very unclear speech
- ☐ Can't work simple toys (such as pegboards, simple puzzles, turning handle)
- ☐ Doesn't speak in sentences
- ☐ Doesn't understand simple instructions
- ☐ Doesn't play pretend or make-believe
- ☐ Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys
- ☐ Doesn't make eye contact
- ☐ Loses skills they once had

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If by the end of **4 years** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Can't jump in place
- ☐ Has trouble scribbling
- ☐ Shows no interest in interactive games or make-believe
- ☐ Ignores other children or doesn't respond to people outside the family
- ☐ Resists dressing, sleeping, and using the toilet
- ☐ Can't retell a favorite story
- ☐ Doesn't follow 3-part commands
- ☐ Doesn't understand "same" and "different"
- ☐ Doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly
- ☐ Speaks unclearly
- ☐ Loses skills they once had



If by the end of **5 years** of age, your child can not perform one or more of the following speak with someone who can help.

- ☐ Doesn't show a wide range of emotions
- ☐ Shows extreme behavior (unusually fearful, aggressive, shy, or sad)
- ☐ Unusually withdrawn and not active
- ☐ Is easily distracted, or has trouble focusing on one activity for more than 5 minutes
- ☐ Doesn't respond to people, or responds only superficially
- ☐ Can't tell what's real and what's make-believe
- ☐ Doesn't play a variety of games and activities
- ☐ Can't state their first and last name
- ☐ Doesn't use plurals or past tense properly
- ☐ Doesn't talk about daily activities or experiences
- ☐ Doesn't draw pictures
- ☐ Can't brush teeth, wash and dry hands, or get undressed without help
- ☐ Loses skills they once had

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