What are the symptoms of autism in a 3-year-old?

Autism, eParent Connect, Featured Topics 07/24/2019
1. Differences in emotional expression
Children with autism may not play with others. They may:

- play alone
- have no interest in socializing
- avoid sharing toys
- not understand turn-taking play
- not respond to their name
- not understand make-believe or “pretend” play
2. Social detachment

People with autism experience a full range of emotions, but they typically read and express them differently from others. An 3-year old with autism may:

* have difficulty discussing or expressing their feelings
* have trouble understanding the feelings of others
* struggle to be soothed or comforted
2. Social detachment
People with autism experience a full range of emotions, but they typically read and express them differently from others. An 3-year old with autism may:

- make facial expressions that may not match internal feelings
- avoid physical contact with others
- become rigid when hugged
- show no emotion when a parent leaves the room

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3. Communication difficulties
Autism is characterized by difficulty communicating. At 3 years of age, a child with autism may:

demonstrate delays or regression in speech and language skills
speak in a flat or sing-song manner
not speak at all
avoid eye contact
3. Communication difficulties
Autism is characterized by difficulty communicating. At 3 years of age, a child with autism may:

appear expressionless
not answer questions appropriately
repeat the words of others
use words, phrases, or sounds repeatedly; echolalia
3. Communication difficulties
Autism is characterized by difficulty communicating. At 3 years of age, a child with autism may:

- use the wrong pronouns, for example, “you” instead of “I”
- not use gestures, such as pointing or waving
- not respond to pointing
- not understand age-appropriate humor
4. Behaviors
Children with autism often display seemingly unusual or repetitive behaviors. They may:

flap their hands repeatedly
spin around
rock back and forth
appear fascinated with a particular toy or activity
4. Behaviors
Children with autism often display seemingly unusual or repetitive behaviors. They may:

* have obsessive behaviors
* line up toys in an ordered fashion
* be hyperactive in certain situations
* have a short attention span
4. Behaviors
Children with autism often display seemingly unusual or repetitive behaviors. They may:

*insist on specific routines or rituals*
*display agitation, anger, or frustration when someone disturbs their routine or ritual*
5. Other signs

Autistic children often display seemingly unusual or repetitive behaviors. They may:

aggression
impulsivity
self-injuring
intense reactions to sounds, smells, textures, colors, or tastes
5. Other signs
Autistic children often display seemingly unusual or repetitive behaviors. They may:

* temper tantrums
* unusual eating habits