



What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (autism) is a condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and experiences the world around them.

Children with autism may:

- Communicate differently (talk less, later, or in unique ways)
- Have difficulty with social interactions
- Show repeated behaviors or strong interests
- Be sensitive to sounds, lights, textures, or touch

Autism is called a "spectrum" because it looks different in every child. Some children may need a lot of support, while others need less. Autism is not caused by parenting; a child is born with it. With the right support, children with autism can learn, grow, and thrive!

When Should I Be Concerned?

Talk to your child's doctor if you notice:

- Developmental delays
- Loss of previously learned skills
- Concerns from teachers or caregivers

How to Get an Evaluation

- Talk to your pediatrician. Share your concerns and request a referral to Sari Lawless of The Kids Clinic.
- Schedule a full evaluation. Once the referral is placed, our team will reach out to you to schedule the evaluation.

What Happens During an Evaluation?

- Your child will be observed through play.
- You'll answer questions about development.
- Standardized tools may be used.

Why Early Diagnosis is Important

- Helps your child access services sooner
- Supports communication and learning
- Provides guidance for families

Common Supports

- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Behavioral therapy (applied behavior analysis)
- Social skills support



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