

# NOTICE SOMETHING **DIFFERENT** ABOUT A **CHILD** IN YOUR **MOB?**



PLAYS ALONE



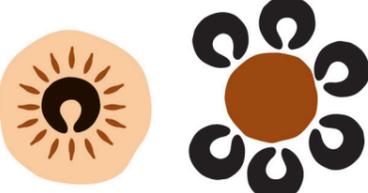
NOT YARNING LIKE  
OTHER CHILDREN



RUNS A MUCK MORE  
THAN OTHER CHILDREN



DOES THE SAME  
THING OVER  
AND OVER



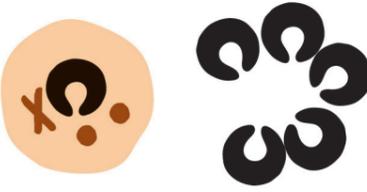
REACTS DIFFERENTLY  
TO THINGS  
AROUND THEM



GETS UPSET WHEN  
THINGS CHANGE



DOESN'T RESPOND TO  
WHAT YOU SAY



INTENSE INTEREST  
IN OBJECTS

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST CHANCE IN LIFE. **GET HELP EARLY**  
SEE YOUR LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE  
OR CALL 1800 636 427 TO GET HELP AND ADVICE.

This is a collaborative project by The Autism Association of Western Australia and the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia.  
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# GUIDE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This poster outlines many of the signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD or Autism). Please use this poster in your community facility to help families and community members to get support when their child is growing and developing differently. We have used simple everyday language to ensure the poster is readily accessible to most people in your community including those whose primary language is not English.

**Note:** These characteristics or signs may also indicate other developmental delays or impairments. The same recommendation to attend a General Practitioner (GP) and/or a paediatrician will benefit all conditions.

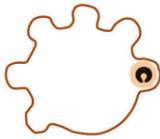
## A WORD OF CAUTION

During conversations with families, it is important they understand that every child develops differently. Some of the listed characteristics may be part of the child's normal development, or may indicate Autism or other conditions. Getting a diagnosis of Autism requires a specialist team with relevant expertise. We recommend families or community members who are concerned about a child to call the number listed at the bottom of the poster, or they are directed to go to their GP to ask for advice.

## AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD OR AUTISM)

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability which is neurological in origin. The core features of Autism are significant differences in social interaction and communication and the presence of repetitive and restrictive behaviours. Children with autism often experience different sensations in the world around them. See our website for more information [www.autism.org.au](http://www.autism.org.au)

## EARLY SIGNS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AUTISM

| POSTER DESCRIPTION   | ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION AND EXAMPLES  |
|--|--|
|  Not yarning like other children          | Not talking at all or talking later or less than other children, making noises instead of talking, repeating words and phrases, lack of pointing to show someone something.<br>Some children may talk but might only talk about one topic, they find it hard to take turns in conversation or have difficulty using language to socialise.   |
|  Doesn't respond to what you say          | Difficulties getting the child's attention or not responding to their name, difficulty following instructions and answering questions. The child prefers not to look at you, gets confused and may not understand what you say.  |
|  Gets upset when things change            | The child may not cope well when presented with unexpected things like different types of food, taking a different route or a relief teacher presenting at school. Children may also have difficulty stopping one task and starting another, or leaving one place and going to another place.  |
|  Does the same thing over and over        | Often the child repeats the same action, for example moving around a room in a particular way, repeatedly turning something on and off, or touching the same objects over and over again.<br>The child repeatedly does the same body movement, for example waving hands over and over, rocking the body, touching things repetitively, or smelling things.<br>The child uses the same words, for example makes the same noises, says the same words or phrases. These words or phrases are sometimes said out of context.<br>The child may only eat certain foods and may have difficulty introducing new foods. The child may only like foods of the same colour, consistency or taste. |
|  Plays alone                              | The child plays differently from other children. For example plays alone, doesn't engage in pretend play, uses toys differently, interested in parts of toys, lining up or stacking toys.  |
|  Intense interest in objects              | Often the child has an intense interest in objects, and these interests may not be the same as other children their age.   |
|  Runs a muck more than other children     | The child may demonstrate more behaviour outbursts when things go wrong than other kids. They may make loud noises or use their behaviour to tell you how they feel instead of telling you how they feel.  |
|  Reacts differently to things around them | The child can be more sensitive or less sensitive to things going on around them. They may dislike certain sounds, smells or tastes, dislikes touching certain textures or being touched by someone else unexpectedly. They may also cover their ears to sound, wear headphones or use sunglasses to block things out. Busy environments like a party or shopping centre can be overwhelming.  |

## GETTING HELP

A diagnosis of Autism or other related condition will help other people understand your child's needs and allow them to get the best help and intervention possible.