FIRST SIGNS AUTISM SCREENING INFORMATION

(Minnesota Department of Education) 1866-693-GROW (4769)
WHEN TO REFER YOUR CHILD. . .

★ Parent concern about child’s developmental progress
★ Diagnosed physical or mental condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay – regardless of whether the child has a demonstrated need or delay
★ Delays in meeting developmental milestones
★ Lack of eye contact
★ Unusual or repetitive play schemes
★ Loud or unusual vocal patterns
★ Extreme sensory (touch, movement) aversions or repetitive seeking of sensory input
★ No back and forth gestures – pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
★ Poor attention span
★ Behavioral concerns
★ No speech, or few words, compared to other children of same age
★ Unintelligible speech
★ Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age
★ Inability to follow simple instructions
★ Poor balance, clumsiness, weakness
★ Atypical muscle tone (too tight or too floppy in arms, legs, or trunk
★ Prematurity (birthweight at 1500 grams or less, 3lbs 5oz)
★ Hearing and or vision problems
★ High lead level
★ Failure to thrive
★ Suspected Autism Spectrum Disorders (see red flags below)

The above concerns should be taken seriously, prompting further investigation and referral to immediate evaluation.

Refer for immediate evaluation if you notice the following red flags:

★ No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by 6 months or thereafter
★ No back & forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by 9 months or thereafter
★ No babbling by 12 months
★ No words by 16 months
★ No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months
★ ANY loss of speech or babbling or social skills at ANY age

Adapted from FIRST SIGNS AUTISM SCREENING INFORMATION

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