



**You're a parent, and every parent hopes for their child! Hopes for a bright today, an even brighter tomorrow. Hopes that they will grow and develop, achieve high scores in school, make good friends. Hopes for a safe and secure, balanced childhood.**

But you're a parent. And a parent also worries. Sometimes the worry is small, and it passes as your child outgrows the issues you worried about. But sometimes the worry is niggling, doesn't leave. You have a sixth sense that something might not be as it should.



**Truth is, not all children develop at the same rate. And not all children will ring all the warning bells.**

There is a whole lot of variation when it comes to child development. Then again, there are some general markers and basic milestones that are consistently noted across youngsters.

You may feel comfortable to put your worries aside for now after reading this. Or you may acknowledge that what you are seeing is concerning, and you want another set of eyes on it.

# 5 Questions You Can Ask Yourself

(to let the niggling worries rest)



## 1. Does your child make consistent eye-contact with you and smile or engage with you consistently?

It's within normal limits for young children to smile or engage inconsistently. But by the time a child is 9 months old, they should consistently engage, make eye-contact, and smile, especially with a parent and primary caregiver. If this is something you are worried about, you'll want another set of eyes on it. It's a good idea to discuss your concerns with your child's pediatrician and get their guidance.



## 2. Does your child communicate?

Even a baby as young as 6 months old uses noises and babbling as a means to communicate, even when we adults have no idea what they are saying!

By 12 months, an infant should be babbling consistently and gesturing to point or show others things they like, see or want. If your child is not doing any of that, or is using language but mostly to repeat or echo things that others have said or lines in a movie or game they interacted with, you'll want a trusted doctor or professional to take a look.



## 3. Does your child like to play on their own?

Young children often play on their own. But ignoring others, and exclusively playing on their own is a concern as a youngster gets older. Does your child seem to tune others out? Do they move away from others who are playing? Are you concerned that they never play with same-age peers?

By 6 months, a child should seem to enjoy being around peers and other people.

Babies of 12 months generally engage in simple peek-a-boo or simple fingerplay. If your child shies away from others, does not smile or engage with peers, you'll want to check into this further.



#### **4. Does your child understand when you talk to them?**

Typically, a youngster can respond to their name by 12 months. Keep in mind that language develops in the natural environment and builds slowly, so following basic directions can emerge by 12 months of age. Again, there is always a range in development, so if your child is slightly behind, that may not be a reason to be overly concerned! But do keep an eye out to see if receptive language is coming in and improving over time.



#### **5. Does your child only like things a certain way? Is your child very sensitive to lights, noise, or foods? Does your child have only one or two favorites (ie., items, foods, etc.)?**

Although every child has likes and dislikes, gets used to routines and has some sensitivities with food or light, being very sensitive to lights, noise, sounds and very selective with foods and toys is common among children with Autism. Some other concerns that might be readily apparent may include handflapping, rocking and spinning without tiring. Rule of thumb? If it is extreme or is impacting daily life, then it's a reason to reach out and see if other professionals can assist with determining a next step for you and your child.

**Your child is your life. You want to do the most you can for them.  
Knowledge is power and can help you determine the next best steps for your family.**



Call us to schedule a free consultation.  
We're happy to help if we can.

732-813-7333

[www.mastermindbehavior.com](http://www.mastermindbehavior.com)

# About us

Mastermind is a specialist in-home ABA provider that believes in the potential of every child with Autism.

- We provide in-home ABA therapy to help your child learn the skills they need to thrive in the real world.
- We are extremely passionate about helping your child reach their potential, and pride ourselves on hiring skilled and dedicated therapists.
- We are here to guide you, support you and celebrate with you.
- We have over 30 years experience in special needs and have the highest qualifications in the industry.



If you're looking for therapy for your child that gets results and is carried out by loving, warm therapists who go above and beyond for your family, we'd love to help.

We know how overwhelming the journey of raising a child with Autism can be.

We know it's not what you expected. We honor you for everything you do for your child, and it would be our privilege to walk the journey alongside you and help your child achieve their potential.



**We currently serve families living in NJ and NY and our services are covered by the majority of medical insurances.**

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