

Children's Therapy and Family Resource Centre

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www.kamloopschildrenstherapy.org

Features of Autism Spectrum Disorder

"Does your child...?"

- Not speak as well as other children the same age?
- Have poor eye contact?
- Not respond when his or her name is called?
- Act as if he or she is in his or her own world?
- Seem to "tune others out"?
- Not smile socially in response to someone smiling at them?
- Seem unable to tell you what he or she wants, preferring to lead you by the hand or get desired objects on their own, even at risk of danger (i.e. climbing counters, shelves, etc)?
- Have difficulty following simple commands?
- Not point to interesting objects or events to get you to look at the same thing?
- Not bring things to you simply to "show" you?
- Have unusually long and severe temper tantrums?
- Have repetitive or odd behaviours?
- Show an unusual attachment to inanimate objects?
- Prefer to play alone?
- Not play with toys in a typical way, or the way the toy should be played with?
- Not engage in pretend play (if older than 2 years)?

What is An Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

A difficulty with language development AND social interaction skills.

The BEST PRACTICE intervention for a child diagnosed with ASD is early and intensive therapy – this therapy is available in Kamloops.

If you observe any of these features in your child, please call the Children's Therapy and Family Resource Centre at (250) 371-4100 and speak to the Coordinator of the Autism Diagnostic Team.

What Will Happen Next?

A home visit will be arranged with the family to do some play-based assessment with the child, and to discuss if a referral for an assessment of possible ASD is appropriate.