

Meta: There are various signs to determine that your child may have special needs. Let's discuss some of the most important ones to help you realize these needs better.

Things You Need to Know if You Have a Special Needs Child



Filename: Girl-playing

Alt-text: A girl in a blue shirt lying in a yellow inflatable pool.

In the US, [approximately 12.8%](#) of the children under the age of 18 and younger have special needs which include conditions such as down syndrome, autism, or Asperger's syndrome. The sooner a child with special needs is diagnosed by a **behavior therapist** or medical professional, the easier it is for them to get help.

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However, parents need to watch out for certain signs when it comes to special needs. Let's discuss these in detail so that your child can receive [applied behavior analysis therapy](#) and other necessary therapies on time.

Controlling Impulses and Focusing on Topics

From time to time, every child has trouble focusing on certain things and controlling their impulses. However, if your child isn't able to focus and is hyperactive in several settings, there's a chance that they require special care.

Hyperactive children may have their own pace of keeping up with others in the school as they can get distracted and have trouble sitting still for longer periods. With proper [behavior management for ASD](#) and [other special conditions](#), your child can perform on par with other students and learn to control their hyperactivity.

Developmental Milestones

Another warning sign that a child requires special care is if they're missing [developmental milestones](#). These are behaviors and actions that children should be able to practice after reaching a certain age.

For instance, a 2 month old baby should start smiling at others and follow things with their eyes. After 1 year, they should be able to play simple games and pull themselves up to stand.

If your child doesn't show these milestones, it's a sign that they require special care. It's best if you consult professional therapists from Orion ABA when you start noticing these signs. We can also perform [in-home ABA therapy](#) to help your child develop the necessary skills in a safe and comfortable environment.

[These real-world stories](#) of kids who beat special conditions like autism will help you understand the necessity of early intervention and ABA therapy.

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Filename: Child-holding-stone

Alt-text: A child holding a white and gray stone

Speaking

Children with an autism spectrum disorder, in particular, have trouble speaking normally and may resort to atypical language. They may not start speaking in early stages or may not speak at all.

Difficulty in speaking is an indicator of several phonemic awareness-based learning conditions. These can be seen in younger children who have trouble pronouncing words, handling other language skills, or rhyming like other children of their age.

What's more, children with a family history of writing and reading challenges need to be closely monitored when they reach kindergarten or preschool age. If you think your child is struggling with these issues, our [autism clinical services](#) can help them.

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Retaining and Understanding Information

Some children may have certain learning conditions. This can make it hard for them to understand school lessons or retain information that's being relayed. Some common signs of a child dealing with a learning condition include not being able to recognize alphabets or not being interested in writing or reading. The condition can also include a lack of understanding of instructions and having difficulty in writing or holding a pencil. All these challenges can also be accompanied by hyperactivity or a lack of focus, and attention.

Spelling and Reading

As your child gets older and starts to go to school, if you notice they are having difficulty in reading, spelling, or pronouncing words correctly, they may need special care. They may have a condition that affects a person's ability to link written words with the sounds they make.

However, these conditions may not affect a person's intelligence but can make reading challenging. They may also be characterized by late responses, slow learning, and delays in learning how to read.

Vision, Speech, and Muscle Control

Children with special needs may often have issues that affect their coordination, posture, and movement. One of the most common signs is missing key developmental milestones such as sitting up and holding up the head or crawling. Difficulties in vision and speaking are also common signs.

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Filename: Girl-making-gesture

Alt-text: A girl making a hand gesture on her face.

Responding and Making Eye Contact

Normally, children will start to make eye contact at the age of 6 to 8 weeks. Their communication and [visual perception improves even further](#) around 16 weeks. If a child is facing issues making eye contact after 16 weeks, this indicates that they are dealing with [autism spectrum disorder](#) (ASD) or another condition.

Children with autism will also struggle to maintain eye contact and may show a lack of responsiveness. For instance, they may not speak, smile, or listen to someone calling out their name.

Autism spectrum disorders can range in severity which is why it's important to consult with professional therapists as soon as possible. This will help your child receive adequate support especially if they're diagnosed with a more challenging condition.

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Filename: Child-playing-with-leaves

Alt-text: A child playing with dried leaves.

How Can You Support Your Child with Special Needs?

If you see any of these warning signs in your child, consult with a professional therapist at your earliest. If your child is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, our therapists can refer to professional therapies such as ABA therapy. This can help your child manage their condition and overcome the challenges they may be facing. The list of therapists can provide a vast range of services that can best benefit your child's development and growth.

Particularly, if you're looking for [behavior therapy services in Chicago](#), [Orion ABA](#) offers family-focused therapies and [personalized services](#). These include professional in-home consultations, social skill development, functional communication training (FCT), behavior therapies, and much more! [We will](#) walk you through your child's journey from childhood to

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adulthood and provide comprehensive services to help them develop. [Contact us today to learn more about our ABA therapy services and other services.](#)

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