

# Developmental Information

## Infancy (Typically Developing Children)

- Rapid physical growth and motor skill development
- Learning through senses and movement
- Progression from crying to first words
- Development of attachment and emotional responses

## Infancy (Autistic Children)

- Reduced eye contact and response to name
- Delayed communication and limited gestures
- Repetitive movements and preference for routines
- Sensory sensitivities and reduced social play

## Toddler Period (Typically Developing)

- Walking, running, and improved coordination
- Rapid language development and simple sentences
- Growing independence and curiosity
- Early social interaction and emotional expression

## Toddler Period (Autistic Children)

- Delayed speech and limited vocabulary
- Reduced social interaction and eye contact
- Repetitive behaviors and strong routines
- Preference for solitary play and sensory sensitivity

## Preschool (Typically Developing)

- Use of full sentences and asking questions
- Engagement in social play and friendships
- Expressing emotions with words
- Learning through play, routine, and repetition

## Preschool (Autistic Children)

- Delayed or limited speech, possible repetition of phrases
- Difficulty with social cues and interaction

- Preference for independent play
- Sensory sensitivities and need for structured routines

## Supporting All Children

- Use clear, simple language and repetition
- Incorporate music and movement
- Provide calm, sensory-friendly environments
- Encourage interaction and celebrate progress

## Important Reminder

Every child develops at their own pace. Children with autism are not behind—they may simply experience and learn from the world differently.

## Goals

- Communicate effectively
- Build meaningful connections
- Feel safe and supported
- Learn and grow with confidence