

Free Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder

If you have a child at least **18 months** of age but **under the age of 5** that is demonstrating some of the following indicators, you may want to consider having him/her screened for an autism spectrum disorder:

- not babbling, gesturing, or pointing;
- has no single words or two-word phrases;
- has lost language skills;
- has lost social skills; and/or
- fails to make eye contact with people

A family member who is familiar with the child must accompany the child to the screening. The screening takes about 45 minutes and is completed by a trained Social Worker or Family Support Specialist (professional trained in child development). They will use a screening tool called the *Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)*, which consists of 40 “yes/no” questions regarding some behaviors you may, or may not, see your child do. The *SCQ* will be scored right away and recommendations will be given regarding the need for further evaluation and/or intervention. Research suggests that educational strategies and associated therapies are crucial for effective treatment of children with an autism spectrum disorder.

You may be able to have your child screened by CDC at your local school’s Child Find event. If not, please call CDC at 1-800-914-4779 or 549-6413 in Missoula, or 755-2425 in Kalispell and say, “I would like to have my child screened for an autism spectrum disorder.” Please have the following information available when calling:

- Child’s Date of Birth •Parent/Guardian Name •Address •Telephone Number
- Social Security Number



