
My Child Seems Ok: Why Are You Screening?

Why Pediatricians Screen for Autism and Other Health Conditions Early

Early health screenings can make a big difference in a child's life. Identifying concerns early on helps children and their families access support sooner, leading to better outcomes over time.

Why Screen?

Many health or developmental issues, including vision, hearing and behavior may not be obvious right away. Screening helps detect possible concerns before they affect daily life, allowing children to thrive. Every child is unique, so screening is a routine part of checkups—even when everything seems okay.

Screening vs. Diagnosis

A screening is not a diagnosis. It's a quick assessment to see if a child may benefit from a more detailed evaluation. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all children be screened for autism at 18 and 24 months, as early signs can be subtle and may go unnoticed.

What Happens Next?

Screening results guide next steps. Your child's doctor may:

- Advise that no further action is needed at this time,
- Conduct additional tests, or
- Refer your child for further evaluation with a specialist.

Early Intervention

Early support can be life-changing. Studies show that early intervention, especially with family involvement, improves children's outcomes at school and in life.

If you have concerns about your child's behavior, vision, hearing or development, don't wait for a screening—talk to your pediatrician. Screenings are here to help, and we're here to support you.

For more information, ask your child's healthcare professional.