Early indications of autism

‘Early detection of autism [has shifted] from language to early social and orientating behaviours’ (Baird et al, 2001).

Characteristics of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) emerging between 12 and 24 months include:

- Deficits and delays in emerging joint attention;
- Decreased response to name;
- Decreased imitation;
- Delays in verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Motor delay;
- Elevated frequency of repetitive behaviours;
- Atypical visuo-motor exploration of objects;
- Extremes of temperament;
- Decreased flexibility in disengaging visual attention.

(Elsabbagh and Johnson, 2009)

The innovative Autism Observation Scale for Infants (AOSI) focuses on behavioural symptom precursors (Elsabbagh and Johnson, 2009).

References
