Week 1: Early Detection and Diagnosis Infographic

**Title:** Why is Early Detection and Diagnosis of Autism So Important?

**Reason 1:** An early diagnosis can mean a child gains access to important therapies and resources when they can be the most effective. Without the diagnosis, most insurances won’t cover treatments like ABA therapy.

**Reason 2:** ABA therapy is shown to be most effective on toddlers and young children because their brains are not completely developed and have an increased potential for developing new learning pathways.

**Reason 3:** Children who receive early intervention have improved outcomes and increased success and independence in the long run.

**We know that early detection and diagnosis works…**

**Stat 1:** [Research has shown that a diagnosis of autism at age 2 can be reliable, valid and stable.](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html)

**Stat 2:** [Studies have shown that parents of children with ASD notice a developmental problem before their child’s first birthday. Concerns about vision and hearing were more often reported in the first year, and differences in social, communication, and fine motor skills were evident from 6 months of age.](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html)

**Despite all the good that early detection and diagnosis can do, it hasn’t been as successful as it should be…**

**Stat 3:** [In 2016, the CDC conducted a report that showed that only 43 percent of children identified with autism had received comprehensive developmental evaluations by age 3.](https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/cdc-update-autism-shows-gap-between-early-concerns-and-evaluation)

**Stat 4:** [According to a CDC study from 2016, even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, most children are not diagnosed with ASD until after age 4 years.](https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/cdc-update-autism-shows-gap-between-early-concerns-and-evaluation)

**How can you make sure a child doesn’t miss out on key years of intervention? KNOW THE SIGNS**

* By 6 months, no social smiles or other warm, joyful expressions directed at people
* By 6 months, limited or no eye contact
* By 9 months, no sharing of vocal sounds, smiles or other nonverbal communication
* By 12 months, no babbling
* By 12 months, no use of gestures to communicate (e.g. pointing, reaching, waving etc.)
* By 12 months, no response to name when called
* By 16 months, no words
* By 24 months, no meaningful, two-word phrases
* Any loss of any previously acquired speech, babbling or social skills

You can help increase the success of early detection by having your child evaluated if you see any of these signs.

Want to learn more about early detection?

Go to: lighthouseautismcenter.com/early-detection