

## Iowa Screening Description for Identification of Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Three Years, At Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders\*

<b>TYPICAL CHILDREN</b>	<b>CHILDREN AT RISK FOR AUTISM OR ITS SPECTRUM DISORDERS</b>
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Infants and toddlers share information by pointing, looking, gesturing and using words to direct another's attention. Toddlers also easily respond to their name and simple directions. These communicative behaviors occur effortlessly throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Communication skills may be delayed, inconsistent or absent in these children. Communicative behaviors may occur in isolation but lack the quality of sharing information with another individual.</p>
<p><b>Social Interaction</b></p> <p>Infants and toddlers engage in reciprocal back and forth play, use a variety of toys, or are beginning to engage in pretend play, imitate actions of others, and show interest in other children. Infants and toddlers respond to social approaches and enjoy being around people. They show a broad range of emotions and are flexible with changes in routines and activities. These social behaviors occur effortlessly throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>Social Interaction</b></p> <p>Social Interaction skills may be delayed, inconsistent, or absent in these children. Children may show poor eye contact, prefer to play alone, lack a social smile, and may appear to be in a world of their own. These children may also play with a single toy or object in the same way each time and seldom pretend. Lining up toys, spinning toys, or carrying favorite objects may be seen. These children may seem unaware of people or surroundings. Adults may sense the inability of these children to adjust to unfamiliar routines; frustrations in changing activities for these children may be noted. Biting, screaming, hitting, kicking, or other aggressive behaviors may be the result of their confusion or misunderstanding.</p>



\*Autism Spectrum Disorders is a term including autism, and other pervasive developmental disorders such as Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS) and Asperger's Disorder or Syndrome.