

## **Aetna – Autism in kids with Dr. Heidi Schwarzwald**

Hi, my name is Dr. Heidi Schwarzwald and I'm the deputy chief medical officer for Aetna Medicaid.

Many parents wonder if their child might have autism and when the first signs would be seen.

About one year of age is when we first see signs of autism.

What are some of those signs of autism?

Children with autism socialize differently, communicate differently and develop differently.

They may not come when their parent calls their name but are overly sensitive to loud noises in the neighborhood.

Or when you try to engage them in play or in reading a book they may not be interested.

When they play with toys on their own, they may be more likely to play with a part of the toy than the entire toy.

If you're concerned about your child, see your pediatrician for their well-check.

Early detection allows for better development for your child.