

## Sunday Morning

# Health Corner

## Autism Awareness Month

**Autism, or autism** spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions that show up as challenges with social skills, verbal and nonverbal communication and unwanted repetitive behaviors.

**ASD affects children** and adults of all ethnicities. In Black communities, children tend to be diagnosed later. This leads to delays in receiving essential services.

**Recognizing the signs** of autism in early childhood is vital. Signs include:

- Delayed speech development.
- Not responding to their name.
- Avoiding eye contact.
- Not smiling if you smile at them.
- Repetitive movements: flapping or flipping their fingers or hands, or rocking their body.

**Encouragingly, efforts to** address autism in our community are on the rise.

**For more information** visit [www.AutismInBlack.org](http://www.AutismInBlack.org)



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