

AUTISM - DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?

Preschool: 2 to 4.5 years



Approaches others in a one-sided way or on own terms



Does not 'share' interests or enjoyment with others

SOCIAL INTERACTION VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Delay in learning to babble, using first words or combining 2-3 words by age 3

Does not yet use 2-3 word utterances

Does not seek comfort when in pain or distress

Unaware of other's feelings



Repeating certain words/phrases over and over again ("echolalia")

Does not follow simple commands relating to objects not in view (e.g. fetch your toothbrush)

Regression in or loss of skills

Indifferent to, or no interest in, age peers

Does not offer comfort to others

Does not respond to greetings or farewells

Does not enjoy social situations that most children like (e.g. birthday parties)

Does not respond by looking when name is called



Emotional responses to others can seem rude or inappropriate

Does not spontaneously join in or interact with others of same age

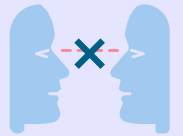
IMAGINATION, IDEAS AND CREATIVITY

Imaginative pretend play is over-focused or obsessive or copied (not invented)

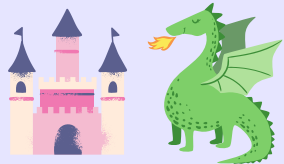
GESTURES & NON- VERBAL COMMUNICATION



Reduced or unusual eye contact



Lack of imaginative pretend play



Imaginative pretend play or role play is repetitive



Imaginative pretend play is solitary or plays near but not with other children

Lack of spontaneous gesture that expresses emotion (e.g. putting arm around someone)

Does not 'show' objects by holding them up or giving them to someone

Poor imitation of sounds or people's actions

Plays imaginative pretend play with others but not equally shared - may passively copy another's imaginative game, or insist that others follows child's own themes and rules

Does not follow a pointing gesture to where someone is looking

Lack of pointing to show objects and share interest



NARROW RANGE OF INTERESTS, ROUTINES & REPETITIVE BEHAVIOURS

Insists on following own agenda

Repetitive 'stereotypical' movements: hand flapping, body rocking while standing, spinning, finger flicking

Uses someone else's hand as a tool (e.g. putting someone else's hand on a box to open it)

Lack of social smile

Displays repetitive behaviours or rituals that negatively affect daily activities



Dislike of change, which can lead to anxiety or aggression

Arranges objects in patterns or lines and dislikes these to be disturbed



Over focused, unusual or highly specific interests and hobbies

Self-chosen activities are limited and unchanging

Problems with turn taking

Prefers familiar routines, likes things to be 'just right'

SENSORY RESPONSES

Unusual sensory responses to sound, sight, touch, taste, smell, movement and/or pain



AUTISM - DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?

Children & Young Adolescents

SOCIAL INTERACTION VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Repeating certain words/phrases over and over again ("echolalia")

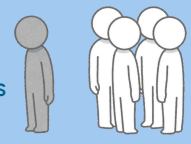
Does not follow simple commands relating to objects not in view (e.g. fetch your toothbrush)



Takes things literally, struggles with sarcasm and metaphor

Limited use of language

Does not seek comfort when in pain or distress



Finds making and keeping friendships difficult

Unaware of other's feelings

Talks excessively about topics of own interest

Indifferent to, or no interest in, age peers

Does not offer comfort to others

Does not respond to greetings or farewells

Does not enjoy social situations that most children like (e.g. birthday parties)

IMAGINATION, IDEAS AND CREATIVITY

Lack of imaginative pretend play

Imaginative pretend play or role play is repetitive

Struggles to predict reactions of others

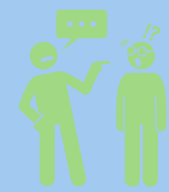


Plays imaginative pretend play with others but not equally shared - may passively copy another's imaginative game, or insist that others follows child's own themes and rules

Empathy reduced or absent

GESTURES & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Lack of spontaneous gesture that expresses emotion (e.g. putting arm around someone)



Reduced or unusual eye contact

Does not 'show' objects by holding them up or giving them to someone

Poorly integrated gestures, facial expression, proximity, body language and eye contact when having conversations



Imaginative pretend play is over-focused or obsessive or copied (not invented)

Imaginative pretend play is solitary or plays near but not with other children



Does not follow a pointing gesture to where someone is looking



Odd of flat/monotonous tone of voice

NARROW RANGE OF INTERESTS, ROUTINES & REPETITIVE BEHAVIOURS

Insists on following own agenda

Arranges objects in patterns or lines and dislikes these to be disturbed

Self-chosen activities are limited and unchanging

Repetitive 'stereotypical' movements: hand flapping, body rocking while standing, spinning, finger flicking

Has strong adherence to rules or fairness that leads to arguments



Lack of pointing to show objects and share interest

Lack of social smile



SENSORY RESPONSES

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Allison, C., Auyeung, B., & Baron-Cohen, S. (2012). Toward brief "red flags" for autism screening: the short autism spectrum quotient and the short quantitative checklist in 1,000 cases and 3,000 controls. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 51(2), 202-212.
 Barbaro, J., & Dissanayake, C. (2013). Early markers of autism spectrum disorders in infants and toddlers prospectively identified in the Social Attention and Communication Study. *Autism*, 17(1), 64-86.
 Carrington, S., Leekam, S., Kent, R., Maljaars, J., Gould, J., Wing, L., ... & Noens, I. (2015). Signposting for diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder using the Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders (DISCO). *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 9, 45-52.



AUTISM - DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?

Older Adolescents & Adults



Approaches others in a one-sided way or on own terms

Problems with turn taking or team activities

SOCIAL INTERACTION VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Repeating certain words/phrases over and over again ("echolaila")

Takes things literally, struggles with sarcasm and metaphor

Indifferent to, or no interest in, age peers

Does not seek comfort when in pain or distress



Finds making and keeping close friendships difficult

Limited use of language

Talks excessively about topics of own interest



Does not offer comfort to others

Talks at others rather than sharing a two-way conversation

Unaware of other's feelings

Does not respond to greetings or farewells

Makes comments without awareness of social niceties or hierarchies

Can be over-formal or over-familiar

Emotional responses to others are rude, inappropriate and unsympathetic

Does not spontaneously join in or interact with others of same age

IMAGINATION, IDEAS AND CREATIVITY

Imaginary activities not shared with others or else passively follows another's imaginative theme or insists that others follows his/her own themes and rules

Struggles to 'read between the lines'

Unable to adjust behaviour to expectations or predicted reactions of others



Poorly integrated gestures, facial expression, proximity, body language and eye contact when having conversations

Finds it difficult to predict intentions of others/cannot imagine characters intentions in story/film

Experience difficulties with problem solving



GESTURES & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Reduced or no imagination



Reduced creativity, limited or repetitive fantasy world or role play

Unable to foresee consequences of own actions on other people

Lack of spontaneous gesture that expresses emotion (e.g. putting arm around someone)



Reduced or unusual eye contact

Odd of flat/monotonous tone of voice

Lack of social smile

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