

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (AUTISM) CHECKLIST

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Name of child or adolescent

Age

Each item should be checked off using the following rating scale

- 0 Not at all, never occurs, does not apply
- 1 Mild, sometimes observed, applies to some extent
- 2 Moderate, often observed, certainly applies
- 3 Severe, frequently observed, strongly applies

Difficulties with social and emotional empathy

Does not relate well to other people.....	0	1	2	3
Does not seem to be aware of other people's feelings	0	1	2	3
Does not point out objects of interest to others	0	1	2	3
Does not show affection.....	0	1	2	3
Does not understand concepts such as 'be kind'	0	1	2	3
Misunderstands other people's behaviour or feelings	0	1	2	3

Difficulties with friendships

Seems unaware of the presence of others.....	0	1	2	3
Has few if any friends	0	1	2	3
Does not join in play activities or games.....	0	1	2	3
Very wary of strangers.....	0	1	2	3
Does not understand sharing or taking turns.....	0	1	2	3

Difficulties understanding socially appropriate behaviour

Says or does socially inappropriate things	0	1	2	3
Does not get embarrassed by social gaffes	0	1	2	3
Asks for explicit feedback, such as 'Am I being kind?'	0	1	2	3

Verbal communication difficulties

No spoken language	0	1	2	3
Delayed, unusual or disordered language	0	1	2	3
Echoes what others say	0	1	2	3
Repeats odd, meaningless words or phrases.....	0	1	2	3
Does not respond appropriately when spoken to	0	1	2	3
Repeats same conversational pattern over and over.....	0	1	2	3
Takes things very literally	0	1	2	3



Nonverbal communication difficulties

Does not make eye contact	0	1	2	3
Does not use facial expression to communicate	0	1	2	3
Does not 'read' facial expression in others	0	1	2	3
Does not exchange social smiles	0	1	2	3
Does not enjoy cuddles, hugs, or tickles.....	0	1	2	3
Odd sense of social distance; stands too close or too far away.....	0	1	2	3
Cannot imitate words or actions when asked to do so	0	1	2	3
Does not play imaginatively	0	1	2	3

Unusual physical mannerisms

Repetitive movements, such as flapping or rocking	0	1	2	3
Flickers fingers close to face and watches them intently	0	1	2	3
Walks in an odd or unusual way.....	0	1	2	3
Unusually sensitive to some smells, textures, tastes	0	1	2	3
Unusually insensitive to pain	0	1	2	3
Self harming behaviour such as head banging, biting, scratching.....	0	1	2	3

Inflexible interests and adherence to routines

Has an obsessive interest in an unusual object	0	1	2	3
Distressed by small changes in routine	0	1	2	3
Adheres to unnecessary, meaningless routines.....	0	1	2	3
Preoccupied with parts of objects.....	0	1	2	3
Fascinated by spinning or flickering items.....	0	1	2	3

Exceptional 'islands' of memory or skill

Extraordinary memory in limited range such as train time tables.....	0	1	2	3
Exceptional technical skill in one area such as music, art.....	0	1	2	3

Positive characteristics and strengths (describe at least 3)

Important notes

This checklist can be used to help diagnose and assess Autism. However, several conditions have similar characteristics and there may a range of explanations for the observations made. Specialist assessment is necessary for a formal diagnosis.

- Supporting notes on Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism) (pages 98–103)
- Guides for discussions with colleagues, parents and students (pages 184–8)

