

AshleyWilliams Counseling, Inc.

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Autism Spectrum Checklist of Characteristics/Concerns

Client's Name: _____ DOB _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

Person completing this form: _____ Relationship: _____

What are the symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

The symptoms of one person with autism can be very different from the symptoms of another person with autism. Health care providers think of autism as a **spectrum disorder**—which means that there is a range of similar features in different people with the disorder.

These descriptions give a guide to many of the behaviors observed in children, teenagers and adults with ASD. It is important to remember that everyone is different and very few children or adults will show **all** of these characteristics. The three lists show a **typical** progression through childhood into adulthood.

One person with autism may have mild symptoms, while another may have more serious symptoms, but they both have ASD. Below are many common symptoms seen in children/adolescent and adults with possible ASD.

In general, the main signs and symptoms of ASD relate to:

Communication and interactions with other people

Routines or repetitive behaviors, sometimes called stereotyped behaviors

Red Flags for ASD

Although your child may have displayed some of the behaviors in the past, please check the box.

Please check all that apply.

Communication

- Does not respond to his/her name by 12 months of age
- Cannot explain what he/she wants
- Doesn't follow directions
- Seems to hear sometimes, but not other times
- Doesn't point or wave "bye-bye"
- Used to say a few words or babble, but now does not

Social Behavior

- Doesn't smile when smiled at
- Has poor eye contact
- Seems to prefer to play alone
- Gets things for him/herself only
- Is very independent for his/her age
- Seems to be in his/her "own world"
- Seems to tune people out
- Is not interested in other children
- Doesn't point out interesting objects by 14 months of age
- Doesn't like to play "peek-a-boo"
- Doesn't try to attract his/her parent's attention

Note about these red flags:

Some of these red flags apply only at certain ages, so consider what is typical for other children your child's age.

Some red flags are more strongly associated with autism than others.

If your child shows any red flags for autism, talk to his or her health care provider right away

Stereotyped Behavior

- Gets "stuck" doing the same things over and over and can't move on to other things

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- Shows unusual attachments to toys, objects, or routines (for example, always holding a string or having to put on socks before pants)
- Spends a lot of time lining things up or putting things in a certain order
- Repeats words or phrases (sometimes called echolalia [pronounced *ek-oh-LEY-lee-uh*])

Other Behavior

- Doesn't play "make believe" or pretend by 18 months of age
- Has odd movement patterns
- Doesn't know how to play with toys
- Does things "early" compared to other children
- Walks on his/her toes
- Doesn't like to climb on things such as stairs
- Doesn't imitate silly faces
- Seems to stare at nothing or wander around with no purpose
- Throws intense or violent tantrums
- Is overly active, uncooperative, or resistant
- Seems overly sensitive to noise
- Doesn't like to be swung or bounced on his/her parent's knee, etc.

Many concerns can apply to both children and adults. Please review this checklist, which contains concerns that may apply to children, adolescents, and adults and mark any items that describe the individual in question. Feel free to add any others at the end under "Any other characteristics."

Any other characteristics:

Please explain additional concerns OR provide more info for those checked:

Source-Adapted from: [US Department of Health and Human Services](#) | [National Institutes of Health](#) (2015).

Name:
DOB:
Date: