

Screen for Autistic Symptoms in Toddlers

Behavior

Does the child:

- Seem developmentally delayed in some areas, but at or even above age level in others?
- Have unusual or odd behaviors including severe tantrums, self-injury, or is difficult to control?
- Engage in self-stimulation (hand flapping, toe walking, finger posturing, rocking, odd noises, etc)?
- Display an inappropriate attachment to objects?
- Seem overly insistent on sameness: have difficulty with changes?
- Have inappropriate or abnormal response to touch, sound, sight, smell or taste?
- Play too simply, repetitively or unimaginatively, such as spinning objects or lining them up?
- Stumble, fall or bump into things more often than you would expect?
- Fail to use "pretend" play: for example does not use a stick as a sword, or make dolls talk?
- Have the absence of a pointing gesture and/or is unable to follow a pointing gesture?
- Rarely or never desire to show objects to you in shared interest?
- Inappropriately display emotions such as giggling, crying, or anxiety?
- Have no real fear of danger?
- Not respond to cuddling, or want excessive amounts of cuddling?
- Seem insensitive or hypersensitive to pain?
- Seem difficult to engage, stimulate or motivate toward tasks or play?
- Have an unusually good memory?

Language

Does the child:

- Lack speech, have a limited use of phrases or words, or had words and lost them?
- Seem deaf in some situations but have acute hearing in others?
- Have difficulty expressing needs, such as using gestures or using the parent's hand as a tool?
- Have more difficulty understanding what is said to him/her than you would expect?
- Sound overly formal in his/her verbal expression, or as if it has been rehearsed?
- Reverse or omit pronouns such as *I, you, or me*?
- Echo or repeat words, make up their own words, or use "scripts" such as repeating phrases from a TV show?

Socialization

Does the child:

- Ignore, and/or is ignored by, others?
- Usually avoid making eye-to-eye contact with people (other than family members)?