

Early Indicators

Communication

- Uses behavior to express feelings.
- Lack of development or delayed development of speech.
- Loss of speech.
- Echolalia (questions, statements, sounds): repeats what hears either directly after hearing it or with a time delay).
- Perseverates on one topic.
- Atypical tone or rhythm of speech.
- Lack of or infrequent initiation.
- Expresses emotions inappropriately.
- Displays a narrow range of emotion, may have a flat affect.
- Lack of conventional nonverbal gestures (i.e., pointing, head shakes and nods).
- Doesn't orientate to another person speaking.

Social Interaction (relating to adults, interacting with peers, and imitating the actions of others)

- Lacks understanding of social cues.
- Inability to engage in simple social games such as pat-a-cake or peek-a-boo.
- Difficulty in forming interpersonal relationships.
- Avoids or uses eye contact in odd ways.
- "Looks through" people.
- Prefers to be alone or plays parallel to others.
- Lack of pretend or symbolic play.
- Deficit in the ability to pay attention to an interesting object or event with another person.
- Inability to imitate (body movement, vocal, motor).

Behavior (play and use of objects, insistence on sameness and routines, stereotyped body movements, unusual sensory interests)

- Uses toys in odd ways such as lining them up, spinning.
- Engages in perseverative/repetitive, unconstructive play.
- Engages in repetitive body movements such as rocking, pacing, hand flapping, toe walking, twirling, spinning.
- Develops attachments to inanimate objects.
- Resists change or shows a strong reaction to change in routine, people or environments (insists on sameness).



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