

Checklist for Spectrum Autism Disorder:

The following may indicate child is at risk for an autism spectrum disorder. If your child exhibits any of the following, please don't delay in asking your paediatrician or family doctor for an evaluation:

1. **Difficulty in Social interactions**

Children with this autism might:

- seem to be in their own world
- show little eye contact – for example, during interaction, or to draw attention to something
- not using gestures – for example, lifting arms to be picked up
- not sharing enjoyment or interests – for example, they might not point to an object or event to share it
- show little emotion or empathy
- not respond to their names
- Show no interest in other children or peers.

2. **Difficulty in Communication**

Children with this autism might:

- have little or no babble in infancy
- have little or no spoken language
- not engage in pretend play – for example, they won't feed a baby doll
- have 'echolalia', which means they echo or mimic words or phrases without meaning or in an unusual tone of voice
- Have difficulty understanding and following simple instructions – for example, 'Give me the block' might be difficult for them.

3. **Show repetitive or persistent behaviours**

Children with this autism might:

- have intense interest in certain objects – they'll get 'stuck' on one particular toy or object
- focus narrowly on an object – for example, on a detail like opening and closing the door on a toy bus rather than pretending to drive it, or watching the wheels moving
- insist on following routines and be easily upset by change
- show repetitive body movements or unusual body movements – for example, back-arching, hand-flapping or walking on toes.

4. **Show sensory issues**

Children with this autism might:

- be extremely sensitive to sensory experiences – for example, they might be easily upset by certain sounds, or only eat foods with a certain texture
- seek sensory stimulation – for example, they might like deep pressure touch or vibrating objects like the washing machine
- Like to flutter their fingers at the side of their eyes to watch the light flicker.