

DSM5

Diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder

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[A]

Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested by the following, currently or by history (*examples are illustrative not exhaustive*)

- **3 of 3 symptoms must be present**

[1]

Deficits in social, emotional reciprocity ranging for example from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back-and-forth conversation to reduced sharing of interests, emotions or affect to failure to indicate or respond to social interactions.

[2]

Deficits in non-verbal communicative behaviours used for social interaction, ranging for example from poorly integrated verbal and non-verbal communication to abnormalities in eye contact and body language or deficits in understanding and use of gestures, to a total lack of facial expressions and non-verbal communication.

[3]

Deficits in developing, maintaining and understanding relationships ranging for example from difficulties adjusting behaviour to suit various social contexts, to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends to absence of interest in peers.

[C]

Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period (but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed limited capacities, or may be masked by learned strategies in later life).

[B]

Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities as manifested by at least two of the following, currently or by history (*examples are illustrative, not exhaustive*)

- **2 of 4 symptoms must be present**

[1]

Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech (e.g. simple motor stereotypes, lining up toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases).

[2]

Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines or ritualized patterns of verbal or non-verbal behaviour (e.g. extreme distress at small changes, difficulties with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, need to take same route or eat same food every day).

[3]

Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus (e.g. strong attachment to or preoccupation with unusual objects, excessively circumscribed or perseverative interests).

[4]

Hyper or hyperactivity to sensory input or unusual interests in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g. apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement).

[D]

Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social occupational or other important areas of current functioning.

[E]

These disturbances are not better explained by intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) or global developmental delay. Intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder frequently co-occur, to make comorbid diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability social communication should be below that expected for general developmental level.