

DSM-IV Criteria for a Diagnosis of Autism

- I. A total of six (or more) items from A, B and C with at least two from A, one from B and one from C.
 - A. Qualitative impairment in social interaction as manifested by at least two of the following:
 - Marked impairments in the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors such as eye-to-eye gaze, facial expression, body posture and gestures to regulate social interaction.
 - Failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level.
 - A lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with other people (lack of showing, bringing or pointing out objects of interest to other people).
 - A lack of social or emotional reciprocity.
 - B. Qualitative impairments in communication as manifested by at least one of the following:
 - Delay in or total lack of the development of spoken language (not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through alternative modes of communication such as gesture or mime.)
 - In individuals with adequate speech, marked impairment in the ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with others.
 - Stereotyped and repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language.
 - Lack of varied, spontaneous make-believe play or social imitative play appropriate to developmental level.
 - C. Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests and activities as manifested by at least two of the following:
 - Encompassing preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal either in intensity or focus.
 - Apparently inflexible adherence to specific nonfunctional routines or rituals.
 - Stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms (hand or finger flapping or twisting, or complex whole-body movements).
 - Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects.
- II. Delays or abnormal functioning in at least one of the following areas, with onset prior to ages 3 years:
 - A. Social interaction
 - B. Language used in social communication
 - C. Symbolic or imaginative play

Note: This is currently being updated by the American Psychiatric Association and a revision is expected in 2013.