

## CARD Autistic Symptoms Questionnaire (CARD ASQ)

### Social Interaction

Does the child exhibit appropriate eye contact, facial expressions, body postures, and social gestures?

Does the child have peer relationships appropriate to his or her developmental level?

Does the child spontaneously seek to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements?

Does the child show social or emotional reciprocity?

### Communication

Does the child exhibit age-appropriate language skills (i.e., no delay)?

Does the child initiate or sustain a conversation with others?

Does the child present with repetitive and/or idiosyncratic language?

Does the child speak with abnormal tone, intonation, rate, or rhythm?

Does the child show varied make-believe play or social imitative play that is appropriate for developmental level?

### Stereotypy

Does the child have an intense preoccupation with one area of interest or activity?

Does the child adhere to specific nonfunctional routines or rituals?

Does the child present with repetitive motor mannerisms?

Does the child exhibit a persistent preoccupation with parts of objects?

## CARD LOCATIONS

### Arizona

Phoenix, AZ (602) 325-2485

### California

Tarzana, CA (Headquarters) (818) 345-2345

Bakersfield, CA (661) 321-9700

Berkeley, CA (510) 549-9405

Fresno, CA (559) 255-5900

Garden Grove, CA (714) 750-0575

Sacramento, CA (916) 374-0800

San Diego, CA (858) 278-6603

San Jose, CA (408) 423-8076

San Juan Capistrano, CA (949) 661-6753

Temecula, CA (951) 699-8640

Torrance, CA (310) 944-9809

### Illinois

Chicago, IL (708) 358-3000

### New York

Larchmont, NY (914) 833-1303

Rochester, NY (585) 377-6590

### Texas

Austin, TX (866) 833-3898

### Virginia

Springfield, VA (703) 229-0202

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

### Australia

Sydney, Australia 61 (2) 9763 5466

### New Zealand

Auckland, New Zealand 64 (9) 4195025

For more information  
about CARD services,  
visit [www.centerforautism.com](http://www.centerforautism.com)



## What is Autism?



**C.A.R.D.**

Center for Autism & Related Disorders, Inc.  
[www.centerforautism.com](http://www.centerforautism.com)



Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in early childhood – usually before the age of 3 years. Although the actual symptoms and severity will differ between children, all children experience deficits in communication, social interaction and have an excess of ritualistic behaviors.

There is no clear explanation for the increase in autism cases. Research is underway to examine environmental toxins and other factors impacting the onset of the characteristic symptoms of autism.

## Characteristic Symptoms

Children with autism display deficits in three crucial areas of development. Deficits in social skills, language and ritualistic behavior and communicative language along with an excessive degree of ritualistic, non-purposeful behaviors are prevalent in these children. The severity and degree of these behaviors vary significantly in the autism population.

## Social Skills

- Fails to respond to his or her name
- Has poor eye contact
- Appears to not hear you at times
- Resists cuddling and holding
- Appears unaware of others' feelings
- Retreats into his/her “own world”
- Prefers playing alone

## Language

- Starts speaking at an older age than other children
- Loses previously acquired ability to say words or sentences
- Avoids eye contact when speaking to others
- Speaks with an abnormal tone or rhythm — may use a singsong voice or robot-like speech
- Unable to start or maintain a conversation
- Repeats words /phrases verbatim, in/out of context for meaning

## Ritualistic, Repetitive Behavior

- Performs repetitive movements, such as rocking, spinning or hand-flapping
- Insists on specific routines or rituals
- Becomes disturbed at the slightest change in routines or rituals
- Moves constantly
- May be fascinated by parts of an object, such as the spinning wheels of a toy car

## Other Common Behavior

- May be oblivious to pain
- May exhibit sensory sensitivities such as tactile defensiveness or oversensitivity to sounds and visual stimuli
- Displays challenging behavior such as excessive tantrums, aggression, and even self-injury

## Risk Factors

Autism has no single known cause. Given the complexity of the disorder and the differences among children, it is probable that there are multiple, interwoven causes. However several risk factors are already known and can include:

- **The child's gender.** Studies show that boys are three to four times more likely to develop autism than girls.
- **Family history.** Families who have one child with autism have an increased risk of having another child with the disorder.
- **Other disorders.** Children with certain medical conditions such as Fragile X have a higher than normal risk of developing autism.

- **Genetic differences/weaknesses.** Researchers have discovered a number of genes that appear to be involved in autism. Each genetic difference may account for a small number of cases; taken together, the influence of genes may be substantial. Some genetic errors seem to be inherited, where others occur spontaneously.
- **Environmental factors.** Researchers are currently exploring whether toxins and air pollutants play a role in the emergence of autism.
- **Underlying co-morbid medical illnesses.** All assaults to the immune system, such as the over-growth of yeast, could impact the display of autistic symptoms.

