

DSM IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria for Classical Autism

A. At least six items in total from 1, 2 and 3 with at least two items from 1 and one item each from 2 and 3.

1) Impaired social interaction.

- a. Marked impairment in using eye contact, facial expression, gestures and body language to communicate.
- b. Failure to make age appropriate friendships.
- c. Failure to share interests, enjoyment or achievements with others.
- d. Lack of social or emotional reciprocity.

2) Impaired communication.

- a. Delayed or absent spoken language with no attempt to compensate by using gestures, mime or other means.
- b. Marked impairment in starting and maintaining a conversation. (In those who can speak adequately)
- c. Repetitive, idiosyncratic or stereotyped language.
- d. Absence of “make believe” or imitating play, appropriate to age.

3) Abnormal behaviour.

- a. Preoccupation with one or more narrow interests which are abnormal in intensity or focus.
- b. Inflexible adherence to non-functional routines or rituals.
- c. Repetitive and stereotyped movements.
- d. Persistent preoccupation with only one part of objects.

B. Delay or abnormal function beginning before 3 years of age in at least one of the following areas.

- 1) Social interaction.
- 2) Language used in social communication.
- 3) Symbolic or imaginative play.

C. Retts Syndrome or Childhood Disintegrative Disorder must not better account for the observed disorder.

DSM IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria for Asperger's Syndrome

A. Impaired social interaction including at least two of the following;

- a. Marked impairment in the use of eye contact, facial expression, gestures and body language to communicate.
- b. Failure to develop age appropriate relationships.
- c. Failure to share interests, enjoyment or achievements with others.
- d. Lack of social or emotional reciprocity.

B. Abnormal behaviour including at least one of the following;

- a. Preoccupation with one or more narrow interests which are abnormal in intensity or focus.
- b. Inflexible adherence to non-functional routines or rituals.
- c. Repetitive and stereotyped movements.
- d. Persistent preoccupation with only one part of objects.

C. The disturbance causes clinically significant problems in social, occupational or other areas of function.

D. There is no clinically significant delay with language milestones.

E. There is no clinically significant delay in cognitive development or development of age appropriate self-help skills or curiosity about the environment or adaptive behaviour (apart from that in social interaction)

F. The disorder does not meet the criteria for any other Pervasive

PDD-NOS Definition.

PDD-NOS is a type of childhood developmental disorder which forms part of the group of Autistic Spectrum disorders. (ASD) This group also includes Classical Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder. The diagnosis of PDD-NOS is one of exclusion, made when a toddler or child clearly has a Pervasive Developmental Disorder but the symptoms and signs do not comply with the Diagnostic Criteria for any of the other ASD's (or childhood psychiatric disorders).

Eg. PDD-NOS would include children who do not meet the criteria for Classic Autism because of late age of onset, atypical symptoms, sub-threshold symptoms or all the above.

DSM IV – TR Diagnostic Criteria for Pervasive Developmental Disorders that are not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS)

This category should be used when there is;

1. Severe and pervasive impairment of reciprocal social interaction, plus.
2. Impairment of verbal or nonverbal communication or
3. The presence of stereotyped behaviour, interests and activities.
4. But, the disorder does not meet all the criteria for Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizotypal Personality Disorder or Avoidant Personality Disorder.