

AUTISM CARE FOR HEALTHY SOCIETY



Guidelines
AUTISM
Assessment

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Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism

Guidelines for the Contents

ISAA is an objective assessment tool for persons with autism which uses observation, clinical evaluation of behaviour, testing by interaction with the subject and also information supplemented by parents or caretakers in order to diagnose autism. ISAA consists of 40 items rated on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (never) to 5 (always). The 40 items of ISAA are divided under six domains as given below.

I - SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP AND RECIPROCITY

Individual with autism do not interact with other people. They remain socially unresponsive, aloof and may have difficulty in understanding another person's feelings, such as pain or sorrow. They have significant problems in use of body language and nonverbal communication, such as eye contact, facial expressions, and gestures and establishing friendships with children of the same age.

1. Poor eye contact

Individuals with autism avoid looking people in the eye. They are unable to maintain eye contact as expected for a given age or required of social norms. Eye contact may be unusual such as gazing for too long on one spot or looking sideways.

2. Lack social smile

Individuals with autism do not smile when meeting people or in reciprocation. A smile that reflects social response and recognition cannot be elicited from such persons. When the child enters see how he/she reacts to strangers. Whether smiles or not. How he responds to friendly overtures such as a smile or a handshake.

3. Remain aloof

Individuals with autism may remain aloof, self-absorbed, withdrawn, and not responsive to people or environment. They seem to be preoccupied with their self and be away from the social world around. They hardly respond to, or initiate contact with others. There is lack of age appropriate pretend play. Ask the child if he has friends, whom he likes at home or what he likes to eat etc. Observe how responsive the child is to you when you interact.

4. Do not reach out to other persons

Individuals with autism do not interact with other people and remain socially unresponsive. They do not initiate, seek, or respond to social interactions. They may not respond to their name, and even if they do, it may not be appropriate.

Check if the child/individual takes any initiative to elicit a response or reaction from others. Does he respond to his name or not and how he reacts when you try to engage him in a social interaction.

5. Inability to relate to people

Individuals with autism do not initiate contact with others and may not relate to people as expected of their age. Reminders are required to attune the individuals with autism to the presence of people and social situations. Persistent effort is required to get their attention. They seem to be indifferent and impersonal in their interactions with others, if at all contact is established.

6. Inability to respond to social / environmental cues

Individuals with autism are not responsive to social and environmental demands or expectations. They show behavior which is not synchronous with the demands/ requirements of the social environment.

Ask if the child behaves appropriately or not in keeping with what is expected in a given social situation and also find out whether the child behaves appropriately when parents take him/her to visit friends or relatives, or behaves properly in a market.

7. Engage in solitary and repetitive play activities

Individuals with autism play alone most of the time or prefer solitary activities. They avoid playing with others and may not engage in group oriented activities or tasks at all.

Ask if the child plays in a group with other children or he plays alone with some object or material repetitively.

8. Inability to take turns in social interaction

Individuals with autism do not comprehend the significance of taking turns in reciprocal interaction with others. They do not wait until their turn comes or the others' turn ends.

Check if the child can play with a ball by taking turns with someone or can he play bat and ball with someone which requires turn taking and whether he waits for his turns when talking to others.

9. Do not maintain peer relationships

Individuals with autism do not develop age appropriate friendships. They may not engage in age appropriate peer interactions or maintain peer relationships as is socially expected. Autistic persons appear to find it difficult to understand social rules and to conform to social boundaries.

Ask if the child plays with children of his age, what he plays with them, and how well he mixes with them or bonds with them.

II - EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

Individuals with autism do not show the expected feelings in a social situation. Emotional reactions are unrelated to the situation and may show anxiety or fear which is excessive in

nature without apparent reason. They may engage in self-talk that is inappropriate for their age and may lack fear of danger.

10. Inappropriate emotional response

Persons with autism do not show the expected feeling in a social situation. They express inappropriate emotional responses like laughing when scolded or spanked and inappropriate degree of response like excessive crying or laughing that is unwarranted. Emotional reactions are unrelated to the event or situation around the individual. They may show unpredictable shift in emotions, that is, they may become excited, agitated or distressed for no apparent reason.

11. Show exaggerated emotions

Persons with autism may show anxiety or fear which is excessive in nature and which may be triggered off without an apparent reason. At times, it may be exaggerated or atypical. The autistic individual may show extreme fear of innocuous objects or events leading to uncontrolled behavior.

12. Engage in self-stimulating emotions

Individuals with autism may engage in self talk that is inappropriate for their age. The autistic individual may smile to self without any apparent reason. Check if the child talks to self or laughs or smiles or whines for no apparent reason.

13. Lack fear of danger

Persons with autism may not show fear of hazards or dangers which others of the same age would show or know.

14. Excited or agitated for no apparent reason

Persons with autism may show excitement, over activity or agitation that is both excessive and unwarranted. The autistic child moves around with brisk energy and may be difficult to control.

III - SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Individuals with Autism will have problems in speech development. They find it difficult to express their needs verbally and nonverbally and may also have difficulty in understanding the non verbal language of others. People with autism often, have echolalia and may repeat a word, phrase or sentence out of context.

15. Acquired speech and lost it

Speech development is not age-appropriate. The autistic individual may have developed speech, but lost it subsequently. 50% of autistic may be mute.

16. Difficulty in using non-verbal language or gestures to communicate

Persons with autism find it difficult to express their needs non-verbally and may also have difficulty in understanding the non-verbal language of others. Instead of gesturing or pointing, they may lead others to the desired object by dragging or pulling the latter's hand.

Arrange Cup, Doll, Car, Spoon, and Key in a row and ask the child to point to one of the objects. Keep two or three objects at a time to check if the child can point to objects.

17. Engage in stereotyped and repetitive use of language

Persons with autism may repeat a word, phrase or sentence out of context. They repeat the same statement many times.

18. Engage in echolalic speech

Persons with autism may repeat or echo questions or statements made by other people. They may not understand that they have to answer the questions.

Observe if the child is repeating what you said either the whole or a part of what you said.

19. Produce infantile squeals or unusual noises

Persons with autism may squeal, make bizarre noises and produce unintelligible speech like sounds. They may produce speech like sounds which lack meaning.

20. Unable to initiate or sustain conversation with others

Persons with autism may not be able to initiate or sustain conversation with others. Check if the child can meaningfully respond to a series of questions or maintain a dialogue for adequate time.

21. Use jargon or meaningless words

Persons with autism may use strange or meaningless words which convey no meaning.

22. Uses pronoun reversals

Persons with autism may show difficulty in the use of pronouns. They frequently reverse pronouns such as “I” for “You”.

23. Unable to grasp pragmatics of communication (real meaning)

Persons with autism have difficulty in understanding the true intent of speech of others. They may not understand the pragmatics of speech communication. For example, When somebody asks them “Can you tell the time?”, they may say “Yes” and stop. Check if the person understands humor and sarcasm.

IV - BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS

Individuals with autism may engage in self –stimulatory behaviour in the form of flapping of hands or using an object for this purpose. They insist on following routines, sameness and may resist change. Some autistic children may be restless and exhibit aggressive behaviour.

24. Engage in stereotyped and repetitive motor manners

Persons with autism may engage in self-stimulatory behavior in the form of flapping of hands or fingers, body rocking or using an object for this purpose.

25. Show attachment to inanimate objects

Individuals with autism may be staunchly attached to certain inanimate objects which they insist on keeping with themselves such as string, rock, pen, stick, toy, bottle and the like.

Keep all the objects and check if the child shows attachment to inanimate object/s. This can be seen if he likes to play with one object consistently and seems very much attached to it and shows resistance and temper tantrums when that object is taken away.

26. Show hyperactivity / restlessness

Individuals with autism may be restless with boundless energy which makes it difficult for others to control them. The hyperactivity interferes with their learning and performance of tasks.

27. Exhibit aggressive behaviour

Persons with autism may show unprovoked aggression and socially inappropriate behavior such as hitting, kicking and pinching.

28. Throw temper tantrums

Individuals with autism may show temper tantrums in the form of head banging, screaming, and yelling etc. Such behaviors are emitted when frustrated.

29. Engage in self-injurious behaviour

Persons with autism may indulge in self-injurious behaviors like biting, hitting or mutilating self. Such individuals have to be constantly supervised to prevent them injuring themselves.

30. Insist on sameness

Persons with autism may resist change in their routine and insist that things be the same as they were. Such individuals may insist on continuing the same activity and it would be very difficult to distract them from such repetitive activities. Any change in the schedule leads to frustration and temper tantrums. Thus, persons with autism show a degree of rigidity in their adherence to routine and accustomed ways.

Check if the child wants to sit at the same place, reads the same stories, prefers the same route, wants things to be kept in the same place, and wants the same schedule of activities in a prescribed sequence always.

V - SENSORY ASPECTS

A majority of autistic people are either hyper or hypo sensitive to light, sound, smell and other external stimulation. They may ignore objects or become obsessed by them or they may watch those objects very intently or act as if they are not even there. Some autistic children explore their environment by smelling, touching or tasting objects.

31. Unusually sensitive to sensory stimuli

Persons with autism may react strongly to certain sounds, light, touch or tastes by closing their ears, eyes or refusing to eat food of certain consistency. They may actively avoid certain sensory stimuli.

Ring the bell or any sound making object to see how the child reacts. Check if he is finding the sound aversive or distressing or if he closes his ears. This is for auditory stimuli. Check how the child reacts to your touch. Observe how the child reacts to bright illumination or darkness.

32. Stare into space for long periods of time

Persons with autism may stare at some distant spot or space for long periods of time. They seem to be unaware of surroundings when thus occupied.

33. Difficulty in tracking objects

Persons with autism may have difficulty in tracking objects or persons in motion. They are unable to follow or fix their gaze on moving objects or persons for the required period of time.

Throw the ball or rattle and see if the child tracks it or not. Veer a car and move it around or spin the top and check if the child is looking at it as it twirls and moves away or not.

34. Has unusual vision

Persons with autism may be able to observe tiny details which may not be apparent to others. Such individuals focus their attention on some insignificant part of an object that is generally ignored by others.

Check if the child is looking at some miniscule part of the object or toy or watching from the corners of his eyes or brings objects very close to the eyes and stares.

35 . Insensitive to pain

Persons with autism may hardly react to pain. They seem not to be distressed or cry when hurt. They seem to have high thresholds for pain.

36 . Respond to objects unusually by smelling, touching or tasting

Individuals with autism may go around exploring their environment by smelling, touching or tasting objects. Some of them may not show appropriate use of objects or toys.

Keep all the objects and observe if the child is smelling, touching or tasting the objects or if he is using the objects appropriately.

VI - COGNITIVE COMPONENT

Individuals with autism may lack attention and concentration. They do not respond to instructions promptly or respond after a considerable delay. On the other hand individuals with autism may also have special or unusual ability known as, savant ability in some areas like reading, music, memory and artistic abilities.

37. Inconsistent attention and concentration

It is difficult to arouse the attention of individuals with autism. They do not concentrate, and if they do, then it may not be on relevant aspects of the object or event. As a result of this, they may be inconsistent in their response.

Ask the child to put the pegs on the board or sort the pieces and put them in their right places on the sorting board or fill the bottle with the beads or string the beads in a twine. Check if the child can attend and concentrate on the task.

38. Delayed response time

Persons with autism do not respond to instructions promptly or respond after a considerable delay. Quick response to instructions is hardly ever to be expected.

Show picture books/blocks and ask the child to show some object in a picture book. Observe if the child is responding after a delay or with repeated instructions. Ask for the name of things or objects or its uses or differences between objects depending on the age of the child.

39. Unusual memory

Persons with autism may show memory for things which most of the individuals would have long forgotten. Some of them have exceptional ability to remember things from the distant past. Check if the child recognizes people he met long time back or remembers the routines taken or places visited or dates or time or locations or names of things to an extraordinary extent.

40. Savant ability

Persons with autism may have special or unusual ability in some areas like reading early, mathematical feats or artistic talent. Some of them may show superior ability, but in a restricted field of interest.

VII - OTHER HEALTH RELATED OBSERVATIONS

41. Other Health related Observations

Persons with autism may have issues in the daily routine activities like body stiffness, Immunity level, Saliva dripping, Eating habits, Sleeping pattern, Bed wetting, Toileting habits

THE BEST WAY TO MAKE CHILDREN HAPPY IS TO MAKE THEM HEALTHY



AUTISM ASSESSMENT

Special Schools | Hospitals | National Institutes

Dear Parents

Manushyaa Blossom aims to provide the best treatment and services to your family.

Please spare some of your valuable time to complete this form (Autism Assessment)

Parent's assessment not only helps to gauge the degree of Parent's satisfaction with our treatment and services but also helps us to identify, rectify and improve our services to the best of our ability.



PHOTO

Patient ID No Reference (For New Patient).....Date:.....

Name of the Child:.....Parent Name:.....

DOB: TOB: (AM/PM) Birth: Natural Ceasarian Place of Birth (nearest town/city).....

Age: Gender: Height(cm) Weight.....(kg) Ph:

Email:.....Address:.....

.....Dist.....State.....Country.....PinCode.....

Manushyaa Blossom Treatment (please tick) : Before starting

Mandalam: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Please tick (✓) the appropriate block

	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Items	Rarely Up to 20% Score 1	Sometimes 21-40% Score 2	Frequently 41-60% Score 3	Mostly 61-80% Score 4	Always 81-100% Score 5
I. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP AND RECIPROCIY					
1. Has poor eye contact					
2. Lacks social smile					
3. Remains aloof					
4. Does not reach out to others					
5. Unable to relate to people					
6. Unable to respond to social/environmental cues					
7. Engages in solitary and repetitive play activities					
8. Unable to take turns in social interaction					
9. Does not maintain peer relationships					
II. EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS					
10. Shows inappropriate emotional response					
11. Shows exaggerated emotions					
12. Engages in self-stimulating emotions					
13. Lacks fear of danger					
14. Excited or agitated for no apparent reason					

Items	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rarely Up to 20% Score 1	Sometimes 21-40% Score 2	Frequently 41-60% Score 3	Mostly 61-80% Score 4	Always 81-100% Score 5
III. SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION					
15. Acquired speech and lost it					
16. Has difficulty in using non-verbal language or gestures to communicate					
17. Engages in stereotyped and repetitive use of language					
18. Engages in echolalic speech					
19. Produces infantile squeals/ unusual noises					
20. Unable to initiate or sustain conversation with others					
21. Uses jargon or meaningless words					
22. Uses pronoun reversals					
23. Unable to grasp pragmatics of communication (real meaning)					
IV. BEHAVIOR PATTERNS					
24. Engages in stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms					
25. Shows attachment to inanimate objects					
26. Shows hyperactivity/ restlessness					
27. Exhibits aggressive behavior					
28. Throws temper tantrums					
29. Engages in self-injurious behavior					
30. Insists on sameness					
V. SENSORY ASPECTS					
31. Unusually sensitive to sensory stimuli					
32. Stares into space for long periods of time					
33. Has difficulty in tracking objects					
34. Has unusual vision					
35. Insensitive to pain					
36. Responds to objects/people unusually by smelling, touching or tasting					
VI. COGNITIVE COMPONENT					
37. Inconsistent attention and concentration					
38. Shows delay in responding					
39. Has unusual memory of some kind					
40. Has 'savant' ability					

For office use only				
Classification	No Autism < 70	Mild Autism 70 to 106	Moderate Autism 107 to 153	Severe Autism > 153
Total score				

VII. OTHER HEALTH-RELATED OBSERVATIONS			
1. Neck control	Stable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unstable <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Body Stiffness	Flexible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigid <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Immunity level	Improved	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Saliva dripping	Stopped	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Eating Habits	Improved	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregular <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sleeping pattern	Improved	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregular <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Bed Wetting	Stopped	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Toileting Habits	Regular	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregular <input type="checkbox"/>
Head Circumference Measurement(in cm)			

Parent's signature.....Date:.....



Manushyaa Blossom has unique **Traditional Indian Medicines of Siddha formulation** (produced as per GMP standards) to treat children with Autism and other Intellectual Disabilities. We are promoting Siddha treatment to many Special Schools, Hospitals and National Institutes **by conducting All India "Awareness Campaign"**.



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