

## PARENT INTERVIEW

This form is a shortened, easy-reference guide of more comprehensive parent interview questions. It provides questions that are developmentally tied to the current DSM-IV symptoms for ASD. Please make sure to take note of the following:

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### **SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND COMMUNICATION:**

*It is important to probe for both the consistency with which the child demonstrates these behaviors across people and settings, and the amount of effort required on the part of the adult to elicit social interactions.*

### **ATYPICAL BEHAVIORS:**

*It is important to probe for the frequency with which the child demonstrates these behaviors throughout the day, the pervasiveness of these behaviors across settings, the intensity with which the child engages in these activities (i.e., resistance to interruption), and the degree to which they interfere with the child's and family's adaptive functioning.*

SOURCE: Quentin Humberd, MD & Zachary Warren, PhD  
Vanderbilt University

## Autism Interview:

0 – Behavior appears to be within normal limits

1 – Behavior is atypical, but not definitively characteristic of ASD

2 – Behavior is atypical and characteristic of ASD

### SOCIAL INTERACTION

<p><u>    </u> <i>Use of nonverbal behaviors</i></p> <p>a. When you are playing with your child, does he usually look you in the face? Is it hard to catch his eye?</p> <p>b. Do you think that your child shows a normal range of facial expressions? Including subtler emotions such as embarrassment, surprise, guilt?</p> <p>c. Does your child point at things? Can your child nod yes and no? Wave hi? Can he do this without prompting? Will he use eye contact while doing this?</p> <p>d. How does your child ask for help? Will he request by leading you to or placing your hand on objects?</p> <p>e. Can you get your child to smile at you without touching him (i.e., just by smiling at him).</p>	
<p><u>    </u> <i>Peer relationships</i></p> <p>a. How does your child do around other children his age? Siblings</p> <p>b. Is he interested in other peers? Does he watch them? Does he try to approach them?</p> <p>c. How does he respond when approached by peers?</p> <p>d. Does he tend to interact and cooperate when playing with peers? Does he appear to play along side other children? Does he engage in more than physical play (e.g., tag, chase, etc.) with peers?</p>	

<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Sharing enjoyment, interest, or achievements</i></b></p> <p>a. Does your child bring you things when he does not need help?</p> <p>b. Does your child show you things spontaneously (e.g. hold up toys for you to look at, show off for attention).</p> <p>c. Will he share things with you spontaneously?</p>	
<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Social or emotional reciprocity</i></b></p> <p>a. How does he respond if you are hurt or sad? If a sibling is hurt or upset?</p> <p>b. Can your child tell how you are feeling by looking at your face?</p> <p>c. Does your child follow the rules of social interaction (e.g., basic safety rules, checking back for parents while playing)?</p> <p>d. Does your child respond to his name?</p> <p>e. Does he initiate a lot of activities with others? Can he engage in cooperative / turn-taking play?</p>	

**COMMUNICATION**

<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Delay in spoken language w/o nonverbal compensation</i></b></p> <p>a. Does your child use words regularly? How old was your child when he said his first words / phrases?</p> <p>b. After your child started using words, was there ever a time that he seemed to stop using them?</p>	
<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Impairment in conversation</i></b></p> <p>a. Can you have a back and forth conversation with your child?</p> <p>b. Does he ever talk to you just to be friendly/chat?</p> <p>c. Does he respond appropriately to questions from others?</p>	

<p><b><i>Stereotyped use of language</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does your child ever echo things he has heard?</li> <li>Does your child ever repeat the same word, phrase or sound over and over? Does he often use catch-phrases or repeat scripts from show/songs?</li> <li>Is there anything unusual about the way your child speaks (volume, rate, rhythm)? Does he jargon or produce unusual words/sounds.</li> <li>Did your child have difficulty learning to use pronouns? For example, saying "he," "you," or his name, when he meant "I"?</li> </ol>	
<p><b><i>Lack of make believe/imitative play</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does your child engage in any pretend play with stuffed animals, dolls, action figures? Will he use other objects to represent other objects?</li> <li>Can you get your child to imitate you? Will your child imitate other folks when you are not trying to have him imitate you?</li> <li>What about peek-a-boo and patty cake or other song/game routines?</li> </ol>	

**STEREOTYPED BEHAVIORS/INTERESTS**

<p><b><i>Stereotyped interests</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does your child have any usual interests (e.g., cords, switches, appliances, mirrors, water, fans, wheels, etc.)?</li> <li>Is there anything your child has to carry around with him all the time?</li> <li>What about lining objects up/stacking/sorting, etc.?</li> </ol>	
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<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Nonfunctional routines or rituals</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is there anything your child has to do in exactly the same way every single time?</li> <li>b. What happens if you change your routine like taking a different way home from school or taking a bath before dinner instead of after?</li> <li>c. Does your child get upset if you move things around in the house or bring home new clothes? How about if you change something about your physical appearance (e.g., glasses, hat, haircut, beard)?</li> <li>d. Are there particular locations for toys/objects?</li> </ul>	
<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Stereotyped motor mannerisms</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hand or finger flapping or twisting?</li> <li>b. Complex whole body movements – twirling, rocking, bouncing?</li> <li>c. Tensing or posturing?</li> <li>d. Toe-walking?</li> <li>e. Putting hands over ears?</li> </ul>	
<p><u>      </u> <b><i>Preoccupation with parts of objects</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Visual exploration – looking at things out of the corner of eye, looking at edge of things, close inspection, squinting, looking at things from a strange angle. Looking at wheels on eye level.</li> <li>b. Does your child seem extremely interested in toys that he can activate or operate?</li> <li>c. Does your child seem to be preoccupied with texture? Seek objects out to rub and feel.</li> <li>d. Does your child lick or sniff things that are not food?</li> <li>e. Any particular aversions to the sight, sound, touch/feel of objects / clothes</li> </ul>	