

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of screening: \_\_\_\_\_

# Autism Screening: *Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT)*

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This screening tool was developed for use at the 18 month well child visit.

## Ask the Parent

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Does your child enjoy being swung, bounced on your knee, etc.?  | Yes | No |
| 2. Does your child take an interest in other children?   | Yes | No |
| 3. Does your child like climbing on things, such as up stairs?   | Yes | No |
| 4. Does your child enjoy playing peek-a-boo/hide-and-seek?   | Yes | No |
| 5. Does your child ever PRETEND, for example to make a cup of tea using a toy cup and teapot, or pretend other things?   | Yes | No |
| 6. Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to ASK for something?   | Yes | No |
| 7. Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?                            | Yes | No |
| 8. Can your child play properly with small toys (e.g. cars or blocks) without just mouthing, fiddling, or dropping them? | Yes | No |
| 9. Does your child ever bring objects over to you (parent) to SHOW you something?  | Yes | No |

Subtotal NO's

\_\_\_\_\_

## Clinician's Observations

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. During the appointment, has the child made eye contact with you?  | Yes    No |
| 2. Get the child's attention, then point across the room at an interesting object and say "Oh, look! There's a (name a toy)!" Watch the child's face. Does the child look across to see what you are pointing at?<br>To record a yes on this item, ensure the child has not simply looked at your hand, but has actually looked at the object you are pointing at. | Yes    No |
| 3. Get the child's attention, then give the child a toy cup and teapot and say "Can you make a cup of tea?" Does the child PRETEND to pour out tea, drink, etc.? If you can elicit an example of pretending in some other game score a yes on this item.   | Yes    No |
| 4. Say to the child "Where is the light?" or "Show me the light."<br>Does the child POINT with his/her index finger at the light?<br>Repeat the "Where is the ... (other unreachable object)?" if the child does not understand "light." To record a yes, the child must also look at your face around the time of pointing.                                       | Yes    No |
| 5. Can the child build a tower of blocks? (If so, how many?)   | Yes    No |

### Scoring:

- Severe Risk for Autism:** Fails Parent questions 5 & 7 and Clinician's observations 2, 3 & 4
- Mild Risk for Autism:** Fails only Parent question 7 (prodeclarative pointing) and Clinician's observations 4 (producing a point)
- Risk for Different Developmental Disorder:** >3 failures on any section
- Within Normal Limits:** <3 failures in any section

Parent's subtotal NO's \_\_\_\_\_

Clinician's subtotal NO's \_\_\_\_\_

**Total No's**

### Referrals:

The following referrals may be helpful if you obtain a positive screen:

- Family, Infant and Toddler Project—a coordinated system of early intervention services and supports for families of children, birth to age 3, with developmental delays, 1-800-870-6758
- Child Development Clinic—a comprehensive developmental evaluation leading to a medical or developmental diagnosis, 1-800-660-4427, Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs
- Local school district (for children and young adults 3–21 years)
- Autism Information Center 1-800-559-7398 or [www.autism-info.org](http://www.autism-info.org)

### Resources:

<sup>1</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics. 2001. Technical report: The pediatrician's role in the diagnosis and management of autistic spectrum disorder in children. *Pediatrics* 107. <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/107/e85>.  
**(Includes DSM diagnostic criteria and/or descriptions of the five pervasive developmental disorders.)**

<sup>2</sup>Baron-Cohen, S., Allen, J., & Gillberg, C. 1992. Can autism be detected at 18 months? The needle, the haystack, and the CHAT. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 161: 839–43.

<sup>3</sup>Scambler, D., Rogers, S.J., & Wehner, E.A. 2001. Can the Checklist for Autism in Toddlers differentiate young children with autism from those with developmental delays? *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 40: 1457–9.

### Source:

Adapted with permission from Simon Baron-Cohen, PhD.<sup>2</sup>