ASD

Autism Spectrum Disorder

DSM-5 Criteria

1. Deficit in social communication and social interaction across multiple environments
	1. Failure with back and forth conversations
	2. Abnormal social approaches
	3. Deficits with nonverbal communication like eye contact, facial expressions and body language
	4. Deficits with understanding imaginative play and making friends
2. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviors, interests and activities
	1. Repetitive motor movements with objects or speech
	2. Need for sameness in food and schedules
	3. Fixated on interests
	4. Hyper or Hypo to sensory
3. Symptoms must be present in early development
	1. May not be seen until social demands are placed or presented
4. Symptoms cause significant impairment
	1. Social
	2. Physical
	3. Occupational
5. Intellectual disability and ASD are frequently co-occurring

Levels indicate severity of dx (all levels need supports)

Level 3 (most profound)

* 1. Severe verbal or nonverbal communication
	2. Very limited social interaction
	3. Rarely initiates conversations with others
	4. Extreme difficulty with change and transitions
	5. Repetitive behaviors
	6. Requires very substantial supports

Level 2

1. Deficits with verbal and nonverbal communication
2. Social impairment even with supports in place
3. Limited interaction with others- speaking in simple sentences
4. Difficulty with change
5. Frequent repetitive behaviors
6. Needs supports

Level 1

1. Difficulty with social communication without supports
2. Decreased interested in social interactions
3. Difficulty making friends
4. Inflexible, difficulty with transitions and organization

Signs of ASD

* Delayed Speech or difficulty speaking
* Poor eye contact
* Little to no imaginative play
* No joint attention- looking away
* Limited interest in others
* Highly emotional responses to change and transitions

Websites to check out:

Autism Research Institute

Autism Society

Autism Speaks

Disability Scoop