

Autism Characteristics Activity

State Definition	DSM Characteristics
Required Features	
_____ Disability affecting verbal communication	a) persistent preoccupation with parts of objects
_____ Disability affecting nonverbal communication	b) failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level
_____ Disability affecting social interactions	c) a lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements with other people (e.g., by a lack of showing, bringing, or pointing out objects of interest)
Associated Features	
_____ Repetitive activities	d) encompassing preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal either in intensity or focus apparently inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals
_____ Stereotyped movements	e) lack of social or emotional reciprocity
_____ Resistance to environmental change	f) delay in, or total lack of, the development of spoken language (not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through alternative modes of communication such as gesture or mime)
_____ Resistance to changes in daily routines	g) stereotyped and repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language
_____ Unusual responses to sensory experiences	h) lack of varied, spontaneous make-believe play or social imitative play appropriate to developmental level
	i) marked impairment in the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors such as eye-to- eye gaze, facial expression, body postures, and gestures to regulate social interaction
	j) in individuals with adequate speech, marked impairment in the ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with others
	k) stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms (e.g., hand or finger flapping or twisting, or complex whole-body movements)
	l) sensory differences (associated feature)