

The C.H.A.T

The Checklist for Autism in Toddlers is a short questionnaire which is filled out by the parents and a primary health care worker at the 18 month developmental check up. It aims to identify children who are at risk for social-communication disorders. It consists of two sections: the first nine items are questions asked to the parents, and the last five items are observations made by the primary health care worker. The key items look at behaviors which, if absent at 18 months, put a child at risk for a social-communication disorder. These behaviors are (a) joint attention, including pointing to show and gaze-monitoring (e.g. looking to where a parent is pointing), and (b) pretend play (e.g. pretending to pour tea from a toy teapot).

Ask Parent

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

GP or HV Observation

	Yes	No
I. During the appointment, has the child made eye contact with you?	_____	_____
II. *Get child's attention, then point across the room at an interesting object and say 'Oh look! There's a (name of toy!)' Watch child's face. Does the child look across to see what you are pointing at?	_____	_____
III. **Get the child's attention, then give child a miniature toy cup and teapot and say 'Can you make a cup of tea?' 'Does the child pretend to pour out tea, drink it, etc.?'	_____	_____
IV. ***Say to the child 'Where's the light?', or 'Show me the light'. Does the child POINT with his/her index finger at the light?	_____	_____
V. Can the child build a tower of bricks? (If so how many?) (Number of bricks:.....)	_____	_____

II.* To record **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.

III.** If you can elicit an example of pretending in some other game, score a YES on this item.

IV.*** Repeat this with 'Where's the teddy?' or some other unreachable object, if child does not understand the word 'light.' To record YES on this item, the child must have looked up at your face around the time of pointing.

SCORING

There are 5 key items: A5 (pretend play), A7 (protodeclarative pointing), Bii (following a point), Biii (pretending) and Biv (producing a point). If a child fails all 5 key items, they have a high risk of developing autism. Children who fail items A7 and Biv have a medium risk of developing autism.