

M-CHAT

Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers

The M-CHAT is designed to screen for Autism Spectrum Disorders in toddlers (i.e., over the age of 12 months, and ideally over the age of 18 months). A parent can complete the items independently. The M-CHAT does not allow a clinician to make a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, but is a very useful clinical tool that has excellent sensitivity and specificity. Positive results suggest a high risk for an Autism Spectrum Disorder, and may necessitate referral.

The M-CHAT does not require clinician observation. The CHAT, however, does require clinician observation, and has poor sensitivity, but excellent specificity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please fill out the following about how your child *usually* is. Please try to answer every question. If the behavior is rare (e.g., you've seen it once or twice), please answer as if the child does not do it.

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|-----|---|-----|----|
| 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-peek? | YES | NO |
| 5. | Does your child ever pretend, for example, to talk on the phone or take care of a doll or pretend other things? | YES | NO |
| 6. | Does your child ever use his or 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 toys (e.g., cars or bricks) 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 |
| 10. | Does your child look you in the eye for more than a second or two? | YES | NO |
| 11. | Does your child ever seem oversensitive to noise (e.g., plugging ears)? | YES | NO |
| 12. | Does your child smile in response to your face or your smile? | YES | NO |
| 13. | Does your child imitate you (e.g., you make a face – will your child imitate it)? | YES | NO |
| 14. | Does your child respond to his/her name when you call? | YES | NO |
| 15. | If you point at a toy across the room, does your child look at it? | YES | NO |
| 16. | Does your child walk? | YES | NO |
| 17. | Does your child look at things you are looking at? | YES | NO |
| 18. | Does your child make unusual finger movements near his/her face? | YES | NO |
| 19. | Does your child try to attract your attention to his/her own activity? | YES | NO |
| 20. | Have you ever wondered if your child is deaf? | YES | NO |
| 21. | Does your child understand what people say? | YES | NO |
| 22. | Does your child sometimes stare at nothing or wander with no purpose? | YES | NO |
| 23. | Does your child look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something unfamiliar? | YES | NO |
| | Have you ever filled out this form for this child before? | YES | NO |

SCORING THE M-CHAT

A child fails the M-CHAT when 2 or more CRITICAL ITEMS are failed or when any 3 items are failed. Yes/No answers convert to Pass/Fail responses. Below are listed the failed responses for each item on the M-CHAT. Bold capitalized items are CRITICAL ITEMS.

Not all children who fail the checklist will meet criteria for a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. However, children who fail the checklist should first be evaluated in more depth by the physician or referred for a developmental evaluation with a specialist.

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|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 1. No | 6. No | 11. Yes | 16. No | 21. No |
| 2. NO | 7. NO | 12. No | 17. No | 22. Yes |
| 3. No | 8. No | 13. NO | 18. Yes | 23. No |
| 4. No | 9. NO | 14. NO | 19. No | |
| 5. No | 10. No | 15. NO | 20. Yes | |