

Signs of autism: a guide for librarians



Lack of Eye Contact



May Appear Stubborn/Resistant



Flapping, Flicking, Spinning



Scripting Words, Phrases, Noises



Sensitive to Touch



Processing Delays



Repetitive Behaviors

- Flapping, flicking, spinning, rocking
- Focuses on one topic/detail that is unrelated to the conversation
- Scripting or repeating sounds
 - o (e.g. repeat lines of a television show or movie)



Mental Processes

- Displays poor impulse control
 - o (e.g. constantly touching an object despite being told/given consequences)
- Processing delay/Unable to follow a chain of commands
 - o (e.g. put your coat on the chair, sit down, and put your phone on the table)



Sensory Behaviors

- May be sensitive to touch
 - o especially if unexpected
- Overwhelmed by sensory environment
 - o (e.g. covers ears, eyes, nose)



Social Communication

- Flat vocal affect
 - o (e.g. voice stays at one tone with little to no inflection)
- Unusual facial grimaces
- Avoidance of eye contact or blank stare throughout conversation
- Individual has no friends or is socially isolated
- May appear stubborn, defiant, or non-compliant with requests
- Atypical or stiff body language flat facial expressions.
- Overly literal interpretation of questions
- Increased aggravation/anxiety during interview
- Overly agreeable
- Appears to have a lack of sympathy or empathy



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