



# Early Social Behaviors Rating Scale

The earliest social indicators are easy to miss because they are reduced or absent in children who are later diagnosed with autism. Although there is some variability in typical development, these social behaviors should develop by 9 to 12 months of age. Indicate how often the child displays each behavior. If the child obtains a rating of Never or Seldom on any item, consider it a red flag and seek further evaluation.

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Usually
<b>Joint Attention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a toy, book, or food item is presented, will the child look at it along with an adult?</li> </ul>					
<b>Proximity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the child tolerate or seek closeness to an adult or another child?</li> </ul>					
<b>Eye-gaze</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the child drawn to looking at adults' faces?</li> <li>• Does the child look at someone who is trying to engage him/her?</li> </ul>					
<b>Body Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child's body posture and position communicate his/her state of mind?</li> <li>• Does the child show interest, joy, fatigue, or irritability with his/her demeanor</li> </ul>					
<b>Imitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child imitate actions, gestures, or sounds?</li> </ul>					
<b>Reciprocity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child engage in back and forth actions or play?</li> <li>• Does the child give and take food or a toy?</li> <li>• Does the child try to continue a simple game like peek-a-boo?</li> </ul>					
<b>Follow the "Point"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the child direct his/her attention to something an adult points to in a book (close by) or in the distance?</li> <li>• Is the child aware that the adult wants him/her to look?</li> </ul>					
<b>Gesture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the child use a gesture to indicate a desire or need?</li> <li>• Will the child raise his/her hands to indicate "up"?</li> </ul>					

Adapted from *The Source® for Intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorders*  
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