

M-CHAT-R™

Permissions for Use of the M-CHAT-R

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (M-CHAT-R; Robins, Fein, & Barton, 2009) is a parent-report questionnaire to assess risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The M-CHAT-R will be available for free download for clinical, research, and educational purposes once the validation paper is accepted for publication. Download of the M-CHAT-R and related material will be authorized from www.mchatscreen.com.

The M-CHAT-R is a copyrighted instrument, and use of the M-CHAT-R must follow these guidelines:

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Instructions for Use

The M-CHAT-R can be administered and scored as part of a well-child care visit, and also can be used by specialists or other professionals to assess risk for ASD. The primary goal of the M-CHAT-R is to maximize sensitivity, meaning to detect as many cases of ASD as possible. Therefore, there is a high false positive rate, meaning that not all children who score at risk will be diagnosed with ASD. To address this, we have developed a 2-stage screening tool, the M-CHAT-R with Follow-up (M-CHAT-R/F). Users should be aware that even with the Follow-up, a significant number of the children who screen positive on the M-CHAT-R will not be diagnosed with ASD; however, these children are at high risk for other developmental disorders or delays, and therefore, evaluation is warranted for any child who screens positive. The M-CHAT-R can be scored in less than two minutes. Scoring instructions can be downloaded from <http://www.mchatscreen.com>. Associated documents will be available for download as well.

Scoring Algorithm

For all items except 2, 5, and 12, the response "NO" indicates ASD risk; for items 2, 5, and 12, "YES" indicates ASD risk. The following algorithm maximizes psychometric properties of the M-CHAT-R:

- LOW-RISK: Total Score is 0-2;** if child is younger than 24 months, screen again after second birthday. No further action required unless surveillance indicates risk for ASD.
- MEDIUM-RISK: Total Score is 3-7;** Administer the Follow-up (second stage of M-CHAT-R/F) to get additional information about at-risk responses. If M-CHAT-R/F score remains at 2 or higher, the child has screened positive. Action required: refer child for diagnostic evaluation and eligibility evaluation for early intervention. If score on Follow-up is 0-1, child has screened negative. No further action required unless surveillance indicates risk for ASD. Child should be rescreened at future well-child visits.
- HIGH-RISK: Total Score is 8-20;** It is acceptable to bypass the Follow-up and refer immediately for diagnostic evaluation and eligibility evaluation for early intervention.

M-CHAT-R™

Please answer these questions about your child. Keep in mind how your child usually behaves. If you have seen your child do the behavior a few times, but he or she does not usually do it, then please answer **no**. Please circle **yes** or **no** for every question. Thank you very much.

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| 1. If you point at something across the room, does your child look at it?
(FOR EXAMPLE , if you point at a toy or an animal, does your child look at the toy or animal?) | Yes | No |
| 2. Have you ever wondered if your child might be deaf? | Yes | No |
| 3. Does your child play pretend or make-believe? (FOR EXAMPLE , pretend to drink from an empty cup, pretend to talk on a phone, or pretend to feed a doll or stuffed animal?) | Yes | No |
| 4. Does your child like climbing on things? (FOR EXAMPLE , furniture, playground equipment, or stairs) | Yes | No |
| 5. Does your child make <u>unusual</u> finger movements near his or her eyes?
(FOR EXAMPLE , does your child wiggle his or her fingers close to his or her eyes?) | Yes | No |
| 6. Does your child point with one finger to ask for something or to get help?
(FOR EXAMPLE , pointing to a snack or toy that is out of reach) | Yes | No |
| 7. Does your child point with one finger to show you something interesting?
(FOR EXAMPLE , pointing to an airplane in the sky or a big truck in the road) | Yes | No |
| 8. Is your child interested in other children? (FOR EXAMPLE , does your child watch other children, smile at them, or go to them?) | Yes | No |
| 9. Does your child show you things by bringing them to you or holding them up for you to see – not to get help, but just to share? (FOR EXAMPLE , showing you a flower, a stuffed animal, or a toy truck) | Yes | No |
| 10. Does your child respond when you call his or her name? (FOR EXAMPLE , does he or she look up, talk or babble, or stop what he or she is doing when you call his or her name?) | Yes | No |
| 11. When you smile at your child, does he or she smile back at you? | Yes | No |
| 12. Does your child get upset by everyday noises? (FOR EXAMPLE , does your child scream or cry to noise such as a vacuum cleaner or loud music?) | Yes | No |
| 13. Does your child walk? | Yes | No |
| 14. Does your child look you in the eye when you are talking to him or her, playing with him or her, or dressing him or her? | Yes | No |
| 15. Does your child try to copy what you do? (FOR EXAMPLE , wave bye-bye, clap, or make a funny noise when you do) | Yes | No |
| 16. If you turn your head to look at something, does your child look around to see what you are looking at? | Yes | No |
| 17. Does your child try to get you to watch him or her? (FOR EXAMPLE , does your child look at you for praise, or say “look” or “watch me”?) | Yes | No |
| 18. Does your child understand when you tell him or her to do something?
(FOR EXAMPLE , if you don’t point, can your child understand “put the book on the chair” or “bring me the blanket”?) | Yes | No |
| 19. If something new happens, does your child look at your face to see how you feel about it?
(FOR EXAMPLE , if he or she hears a strange or funny noise, or sees a new toy, will he or she look at your face?) | Yes | No |
| 20. Does your child like movement activities?
(FOR EXAMPLE , being swung or bounced on your knee) | Yes | No |