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The M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview can be downloaded free of charge from http://www2.gsu.edu/~psydlr

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Instructions for the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview™

Select items based on M-CHAT scores. Administer only those items for which the parent indicated behavior that demonstrates risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), and/or those which the healthcare provider has concerns may not have been answered accurately.

Score interview items in the same manner as the M-CHAT. If an item is failed, it indicates risk for ASDs. Failure of two critical items (items 2, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15) or any three total warrants referral to a specialist. Please note that failing the follow-up interview does not diagnose ASDs; it indicates increased risk for ASDs.

Please note that if the healthcare provider has concerns about ASDs, children should be referred to a specialist regardless of the score on the M-CHAT or M-CHAT follow-up interview.

Please use the following M-CHAT page to record the scores after the interview is completed.
M-CHAT™

Please score the interview items on this page. Critical items are marked in **BOLD** and reverse score items, meaning those for which a score of “Yes” indicates risk for autism (11, 18, 20, 22) are noted by the word **REVERSE**.

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-seek?  **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/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 small toys (e.g. cars or blocks) 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) **REVERSE**  **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?** **REVERSE**  **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?** **REVERSE**  **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?** **REVERSE**  **Yes**  **No**
23. Does your child look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something unfamiliar?  **Yes**  **No**

**Critical Score:** _________

**Total Score:** ____________

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1. You reported that __________ does not enjoy being swung, bounced on your knee, etc.

Is this still true?

No

Then s/he does enjoy being bounced or swung?

Yes

PASS

No

When you swing or bounce him/her, how does s/he react?

- Laughs or smiles
- Talks or babbles
- Requests more by holding out his/her arms

Other (Describe): ...........................................................
...........................................................................
...........................................................................

If NO to all
FAIL

If YES to any specific examples
PASS

If other is clearly a positive response
2. You reported that ______________ does not take an interest in other children. (Critical)

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does take an interest in other children?

Yes

No

Is he/she interested in children who are not his/her brother or sister?

Yes

No

When you are at the playground or supermarket, does your child usually respond to the presence of another child?

Yes

No

How does your child respond?

Plays with the other child Yes ❑ No ❑
Talks to the other child Yes ❑ No ❑
Aggressive behavior Yes ❑ No ❑
Vocalizes Yes ❑ No ❑
Looks at the other child Yes ❑ No ❑
Smiles at the other child Yes ❑ No ❑

(Ask all)

NO to all

FAIL

If yes to any:

Does s/he (fill in responses given here- e.g. plays, talks, smiles, looks, or vocalizes) more than half of the time?

No

FAIL

Yes

PASS
3. You reported that __________ does not like climbing on things, such as up stairs.

Is this still true?

No

Then s/he does like climbing on things?

Yes

No

Then s/he does not like climbing on things?

Does he/she enjoying climbing on....

... stairs? Yes □  No □
... chairs? Yes □  No □
... furniture? Yes □  No □
... playground equipment? Yes □  No □

Yes to any

PASS

No to all

FAIL
4. You reported that ________ does not enjoy playing peek-a-boo / hide – and – seek. 

Is this still true? ________

No

Then your child does enjoy playing peek-a-boo or hide-and-seek?

YES

No

PASS

Yes

Does your child like any games that involve a back – and – forth exchange with another person?

Yes

No

Examples

Smiles/laughs
Vocalizes pleasure
Requests more verbally
Requests more nonverbally

Yes No
Yes No
Yes No
Yes No

Refuses to play
Cries
Not interested in those games
Leaves situation if parent initiates

Yes No
Yes No
Yes No
Yes No

If yes only to example(s) from above
Pass response

If yes only to example(s) from above
Pass response

If yes to examples from both
What is more typical?

Pass response

If yes only to example(s) from above
Fail response

FAIL
5. You reported that ________ does not ever pretend, for example, to talk on the phone or take care of dolls, or pretend other things.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does pretend play?

Yes

No

Can you give me an example?

Yes

No

Can you give me an example?

Yes

No

Does he/she ever play make believe?

If parent gives any examples listed, it is a pass.

If no, ask examples individually

Push a car on a pretend road ________

Does he/she put a toy pot on stove or stir imaginary food?______

Pretend to vacuum or mow lawn ________

Feed self with a toy spoon or empty cup_____

Feed a doll with real or imaginary food?_____

Pretend to be a robot, an airplane, a ballerina, or any other favorite character______

Put an action figure or doll into a toy car or truck_______

Pretend to talk on the telephone ________

If parent gave any example listed:

PASS

If parent did not give any example listed:

FAIL
6. You reported that __________ does not use his/her pointer finger to point, to ask for something.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does use his/her pointer finger in order to ask for something?

Yes

No

PASS

Yes

If there is something your child wants that is out of reach, such as a cookie up on a counter, how does he/she get it?

Points  ________

Reaches for the object with the whole hand ______
Leads the parent to the object ______
Tries to get the object for him/herself ______
Asks for it ______

If responds with any of the above:

If you said “Show me,” would he/she point at it?

Yes

No

PASS

FAIL
7. You reported that ___________ does not use his/her pointer finger to point, to indicate interest in something. (Critical)

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does use his/her pointer finger in order to point to indicate interest in something?

Yes

No

Yes

FAIL

If Yes:

Does your child ever want you to see something interesting such as......

Yes □ No □

...an airplane in the sky

Yes □ No □

...a truck on the road

Yes □ No □

...a bug on the ground

Yes □ No □

...an animal in the yard

Yes □ No □

How does your child draw your attention to it? Would he/she point with his/her pointer finger?

Yes

FAIL

No

PASS

Is this to indicate interest, not to get help?

Yes

FAIL

No

PASS
8. You reported that __________ does not play properly with small toys (e.g. cars or blocks) without just mouthing, fiddling, or dropping them.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does know how to play properly with small toys?

Yes

No

Can you give me an example?

PASS

Stacks blocks____
Does simple puzzles____
Plays with cars/ trucks____
Plays with a shape sorter____
Stacks rings on a stick____
Nests cups inside each other____

FAIL

Puts toys in mouth____
Throws toys____
Doesn’t play with toys____
Swallows pieces____
Lines toys up____
Carries one toy around the house____
Stares at toys____

If yes only to example(s) from above

PASS

Pass response

FAIL

If yes to examples from both

What is more typical?

Pass response

FAIL

If yes to any example from above
9. You reported that ______ does not bring objects over to you (parent) to show you something. (Critical)

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does bring objects over to show you?

Yes

No

Does your child sometimes bring you:

A picture or toy just to show you? ____
A drawing he/she has done? ____
A flower he/she has picked? ____
A bug he/she has found in the grass? ____

If yes to any:

Yes

Is this just to show you, not to get help?

Yes

No

FAIL

PASS
10. You reported that ________ does not look you in the eye for more than a second or two?

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does look you in the eyes for more than a second or two?

Yes

No

PASS

Yes

No

Does s/he look you in the eyes when s/he needs something? ____
When playing with you? ____
During feeding? ____
During diaper changes? ____
When you are reading him/her a story? ____

Yes only to one

Yes to two or more

No to all

Does your child look you in the eyes every day?

Yes

No

PASS

FAIL

On a day when you are together all day, does he/she look you in the eyes at least 5 times?

Yes

No

PASS

FAIL
11. You reported that __________ sometimes seems oversensitive to noise.

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then your child does not seem oversensitive to noise?
    - No, he/she does not
      - PASS
    - Yes, he/she does
      - If yes to examples from both:
        - Does your child have a negative reaction to the sound of:
          - (ask as needed)...
          - A washing machine? __
          - Babies crying? ___
          - Babies squealing or screeching? ___
          - Vacuum cleaner? ___
          - Sirens? ___
          - Traffic? ___
          - Doors slamming? ___
          - Loud music? ___
          - Telephone/doorbell ringing? ___
          - Noisy places such as the supermarket or restaurant? ___
          - Other (describe):
            ______________________________________________________
            ______________________________________________________

      - How does your child react to (list noise that child does not like)?
        - PASS
        - FAIL
        - Calmly covers ears ___
        - Expresses displeasure verbally ___
        - Screams ___
        - Cries ___
        - Covers ears while upset ___

      - If yes only to example(s) from above
        - If yes only to one:
          - PASS

      - If yes only to example(s) from both:
        - What is more typical?
          - Pass response
          - Fail response
          - FAIL
12. You reported that __________ does not smile in response to your face or your smile.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does smile in response to your face or your smile?

Yes

No

Yes

What makes __________ smile?

Smiles when parent smiles ____
Smiles when parent enters the room ____
Smiles when parent returns ____
Always smiling ____
Smiles at favorite toy or activity ____
Smiles randomly or at nothing in particular ____

If yes to examples from both:

PASS

FAIL

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

PASS

Ask specifically about below examples if parent does not give any

PASS

FAIL
13. You reported that __________ does not usually imitate you. (Critical)

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then your child does imitate you?
    - Yes
      - Does your child copy you if you:
        - Stick out your tongue? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
        - Make a funny sound? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
        - Wave good bye? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
        - Clap your hands? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
        - Put your fingers to your lips to signal “Shhh”? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
        - Blow a kiss? (Yes ☐ No ☐)
    - No
      - FAIL

- Yes
  - FAIL
  - If yes to one or none
  - PASS
    - If yes to two or more
14. You reported that ________ does not respond to his/her name when you call. (Critical)

- Is this still true?
  - No
    - Then your child does respond to his/her name?
      - Yes
        - If he/she is not doing anything particularly fun or absorbing, would he/she usually respond to his/her name being called?
          - No
            - PASS
          - Yes
            - FAIL
      - No
        - PASS
        - What does he/she do when you call his/her name?
          - Pass response
          - Fail response
    - Yes
      - If parents does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples
        - If yes only to example(s) from above
          - PASS
          - FAIL
        - If yes to examples from both
          - What is more typical?
            - Pass response
            - Fail response
  - Yes
    - PASS
15. You reported that if you point at a toy across the room, ________ does not look at it. (Critical)

- Is this still true?
  - No
    - Then your child does look at objects that you point to?
      - Yes
        - Looks at object ________
        - Points to it _____
        - Looks and comments on object _____
        - Looks if parent points and says “look!”____
        - Pass
      - No
        - Pass
  - Yes
    - If you point at something, what does your child typically do?
      - If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples
        - Ignores parent _____
        - Looks around room randomly_____ 
        - Looks at parent’s finger _____
        - If yes only to example(s) from above
          - Fail
        - Pass
        - If yes to examples from both
          - Pass
          - What is more typical?
            - Pass response
            - Fail response
16. You reported that your child does not walk.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child walks without holding on?

Yes

FAIL

No

PASS

Yes

FAIL
17. You reported that ___________ does not look at things you are looking at.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does look at things you are looking at?

Yes

No

Yes

No

PASS

If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples

PASS

What does s/he do when you are looking at something?

Looks at object you are looking at ________
Points to object ________
Looks around to see what you are looking at ________

FAIL

Ignores ________
Looks at parent’s face ________

If yes only to example(s) from above

PASS

If yes to examples from both

What is more typical?

Pass response

FAIL

Fail response

If yes only to example(s) from above
18. You reported that ____________ makes unusual finger movements near his/her face.

Is this still true?

- No
- Yes

Then he/she does not make any unusual finger movements?

- No
- Yes

Please describe these movements.

If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples

- Wiggles his/her fingers near his/her eyes
- Holds hands up close to eyes
- Holds hands off to the side of his/her eyes
- Flaps hands near face
- Other (describe)
  - _______________________________________________________
  - _______________________________________________________

If yes to any fail response

Does this happen more than twice a week?

- No
- Yes

FAIL

PASS
19. You reported that ______________ does not try to attract your attention to his/her own activity.

Is this still true?

No

Then he/she does try to attract your attention to his/her own activity?

Yes

No

Ask each item.

Does he/she...

Say “Look!” or “Watch me!”

Bring a toy or activity to show you (parent)

Look expectantly to get praise or comment

Keep looking to see if you’re (parent) is looking

If yes to any or sometimes to two or more

PASS

If yes to none or sometimes to one or fewer

FAIL

PASS
20. Have you wondered if your child is deaf?

Ask all parents:

Has your child’s hearing been tested? If YES, what were the results?

Note results _____ Hearing impaired _____ Hearing in normal range

If hearing is impaired > PASS

Note: If parents report that they wondered about their child’s hearing only as part of a routine checkup > PASS

Note: Regardless of hearing test results, if child ignores sounds or people > FAIL
21. You reported that ______________ does not understand what people say?

Is this still true?

No

Then he/she does understand what people

No

Yes

PASS

Yes

When the situation gives him/her a clue, can he/she follow a command? For example, when you are dressed to go out and you tell him/her to get his/her shoes…

If yes

If no or sometimes

If it is dinnertime and food is on the table, and you tell the child to sit down, will he/she come sit at the table?

No

FAIL

Yes

PASS

FAIL

When the situation does not give any clues, can he/she follow a command (e.g., “show me your shoe” without any gestures)? Use other examples as needed: “Bring me the book”; “Bring me my keys”.

No

FAIL

Yes

PASS
22. You reported that __________ sometimes stares at nothing or wanders with no purpose.

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then your child does not stare at nothing or wander with no purpose?
    - No
    - Yes
      - (If not stated above) Does your child often stare off into space?
        - No
        - Yes
          - (If not stated above) Does he/she like to walk around the edges of the room instead of settling down with an activity?
            - Yes to either example
            - No to both examples
              - PASS

- Yes
  - Can you give me some examples of this behavior?
    - __________________________________________
    - __________________________________________
    - __________________________________________
    - __________________________________________
  - (If not stated above) Does he/she often stare off into space?
    - No
    - Yes
      - (If not stated above) Does he/she like to walk around the edges of the room instead of settling down with an activity?
        - Yes to either example
        - No to both examples
          - PASS

NOTE (Only if parent asks): these behaviors need to last for at least a couple of minutes.

Does he/she do this behavior (fill in behavior parent indicated) often- at least several times per week? __________
Does he/she walk in circles (not in play to make self dizzy) often- at least several times per week? __________

- Yes to either
- No to both

- Yes
- No

FAIL
23. You reported that _______________ does not usually look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something unfamiliar and a little scary.

Is this still true?

- Yes
- No

Then he/she does look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something scary?

- Yes
- No

If your child hears an unfamiliar or scary noise, will he/she look at you before deciding how to respond?

- Yes
- No

Does your child look at you when someone new approaches?

- Yes
- No

What does your child do when faced with something unfamiliar and a little scary?

- Sometimes or probably looks at parent’s reaction ________
- Probably does not look at parent’s reaction ____________

PASS

PASS

FAIL