

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AUTISM?

Social Interaction and Social Communication: The child may show little interest in making friends; initiates social interactions primarily to have immediate needs met (e.g., to get food, preferred toy); and tends not to share accomplishments and experiences. Other “symptoms” include lack of eye contact, and absent or limited and atypical gestures (e.g., using someone’s hand as a tool for opening the door). Loss of language occurs in some cases.

Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behaviors: Intensely repetitive motor movements or use of objects; the child may be consumed with a single item, idea, or person; experiences difficulty with changes in the environment or transitioning from one situation to another; may have frequent tantrums; and may be aggressive or self-injurious.

