



# RIVER PEDIATRIC THERAPIES

## Checklist for Autism

### BIRTH - 3 YEARS

- Seldom shows smiles or joy or minimal warmth
- Limited back and forth sharing of sounds, smiles, facial expressions
- Lack of response to name
- No babbling or baby talk
- No back and forth gestures, pointing, showing, or waving
- No 2-word-phrases without repeating
- No interest in other children
- Rigid about routines
- Extreme difficulty waiting for anything
- Abnormal regression (stopped playing peekaboo, loss of speech or babbling)
- Object attachment (can't function without, prefers that over people, even if just to rub the texture of it, learns facts about it instead of interacting with it)
- Repeating words, echolalia, parroting without intent
- Arm flapping
- Lines up toys
- Fascination - unusual interest (Heating ductwork) and Perseveration - stuck on one topic
- Does not demand a response from listeners
- Speaks telegraphic
- Little language heard during pretend play
- Aloofness or indifference to people
- Compulsive labeling of objects instead of commenting

## SENSORY PROCESSING | BIRTH - 3 YEARS

- Extreme dislike of brushing teeth, nails cut, washing hair
- Picky eater - refuses certain textures
- Extreme difficulty getting face and hands messy
- Fear of having feet off ground (swinging, stepping off step)
- Constant climbing, jumping, crashing, and cannot sit still
- Dislikes sand, lotion, or certain fabrics
- Seeks spinning, swinging, or movement excessively
- Muscles are floppy and has hard time sitting up straight
- Trouble with transitions and sleep
- Gets easily startled
- Resists cuddling
- Does not notice pain
- Slow to respond if hurt
- Arches back when others try to hold child
- Clumsy
- Constant motion
- Overly sensitive to stimulation
- Does not like noises, smells, lights
- Gets in everyone else's space and touches everything
- Shows fear when tilted backward

Created by Cherie River, River Therapies

Adapted from: *Processing Made Simple and Star Check II*