

# Autism and Speech Delay Assessment

Use this worksheet to track speech milestones, social communication behaviours, and intervention progress for paediatric patients with autism spectrum disorder or suspected speech delays.

## 1 RED FLAGS FOR REFERRAL

No babbling by 12 months. No gesturing (pointing, waving) by 12 months. No single words by 16 months. No two-word spontaneous phrases by 24 months. Loss of previously acquired language or social skills at any age.

**Example:** A 20-month-old who says 'mama' and 'dada' but has no other words and does not point or wave should be referred for assessment.

## 2 SPEECH DELAY VS AUTISM

Speech delay alone: Child communicates non-verbally (pointing, eye contact, gestures) but lacks verbal expression. Autism-related speech delay: Reduced eye contact, limited joint attention, repetitive behaviours, restricted interests alongside delayed speech.

**Example:** A child with isolated speech delay will typically use gestures and make eye contact to get needs met. A child with ASD may lead adults by the hand without looking at them.

# Patient Assessment Record

Complete for each patient during initial and follow-up assessments.

**Patient Name & Date of Birth**

**Assessment Date**

**Current verbal output (single words, phrases, sentences)**

**Non-verbal communication observed (gestures, eye contact, joint attention)**

**Social interaction observations**

**Repetitive behaviours or restricted interests noted**

**Sensory sensitivities observed**

# Intervention Planning

Document therapy goals and track progress across sessions.

## Primary speech/language goals

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## Therapy approach (ABA, PECS, Hanen, Floortime, other)

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## Session frequency and duration

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## Parent/carer involvement plan

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## Multidisciplinary team members involved

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## Progress notes and milestones achieved

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## Next review date and goals

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