

Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST)

Child patient information		
Child's name:	Age:	
Date of birth:	Gender:	
Parent/caregiver name:		
Date of assessment:		
Introduction		
<p><i>The Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST), previously called the Childhood Asperger Syndrome Test, is a 39-question screening instrument used to detect developmental differences in social and communication skills among children aged 4 to 11 years (Scott et al., 2002). Designed to support early detection, CAST is commonly applied in clinical environments as an initial screening measure prior to a full diagnostic evaluation and in educational settings to identify children who may require additional support.</i></p>		
Behavioral assessment		
<p><i>For each item, mark a checkbox with a "Yes" or "No" based on the child's behaviors and interactions.</i></p>		
Questions	Yes	No
1. Do they join in playing games with other children easily?	0	1
2. Do they come up to you spontaneously for a chat?	0	1
3. Were they speaking by 2 years old?	0	0
4. Do they enjoy sports?	0	0
5. Is it important to them to fit in with the peer group?	0	1
6. Do they appear to notice unusual details that others miss?	1	0
7. Do they tend to take things literally?	1	0

Questions	Yes	No
8. When they were 3 years old, did they spend a lot of time pretending (e.g., play acting being a superhero, or hosting teddy's tea parties?)	0	1
9. Do they like to do things over and over again, in the same way all the time?	1	0
10. Do they find it easy to interact with other children?	0	1
11. Can they keep a two-way conversation going?	0	1
12. Can they read appropriately for their age?	0	0
13. Do they mostly have the same interests as their peers?	0	1
14. Do they have an interest which takes up so much time that they do little else?	1	0
15. Do they have friends, rather than just acquaintances?	0	1
16. Do they often bring you things they are interested in to show you?	0	1
17. Do they enjoy joking around?	0	1
18. Do they have difficulty understanding the rules for polite behavior?	1	0
19. Do they appear to have an unusual memory for details?	1	0
20. Is their voice unusual (e.g., overly adult, flat, or very monotonous)?	1	0
21. Are people important to them?	0	1
22. Can they dress themselves?	0	0

Questions	Yes	No
23. Are they good at turn-taking in conversation?	0	1
24. Do they play imaginatively with other children, and engage in role-play?	0	1
25. Do they often do or say things that are tactless or socially inappropriate?	1	0
26. Can they count to 50 without leaving out any numbers?	0	0
27. Do they make normal eye-contact?	0	1
28. Do they have any unusual and repetitive movements?	1	0
29. Is their social behavior very one-sided and always on their own terms?	1	0
30. Do they sometimes say “you”, “she”, “him”, or “them” when they mean “I”?	1	0
31. Do they prefer imaginative activities such as play-acting or story-telling, rather than numbers or lists of facts?	0	1
32. Do they sometimes lose the listener because of not explaining what they are talking about?	1	0
33. Can they ride a bicycle (even if with stabilizers)?	0	0
34. Do they try to impose routines on themselves, or on others, in such a way that it causes problems?	1	0
35. Do they care how they are perceived by the rest of the group?	0	1
36. Do they often turn conversations to their favorite subject rather than following what the other person wants to talk about?	1	0

Questions	Yes	No
37. Do they have odd or unusual phrases?	1	0
38. Have teachers/health visitors ever expressed any concerns about their development?	0	0
39. Have they ever been diagnosed with any of the following?	0	0
a. Language delay	0	0
b. Hyperactivity/Attention deficit disorder (ADHD)	0	0
c. Hearing or visual difficulties	0	0
d. Autism spectrum disorder/Asperger's syndrome	0	0
e. A physical disability	0	0
f. Others	0	0
Score:		

Scoring and interpretation

- The Childhood Autism Spectrum Test (CAST) consists of 39 questions.
 - 31 items contribute to the total score (range: 0–31).
 - Higher scores reflect more developmental differences in social and communication functioning.
 - 6 control questions about general development: Items 3, 4, 12, 22, 26, and 33
 - 2 support needs questions: items 38 and 39
- 0–11:** Typical development
12–14: Moderate developmental differences
15–31: Significant developmental differences
- A score of 15 or above is considered a threshold for identifying children who may have Autism or a related condition. This score suggests significant developmental differences in social and communication skills.

Additional notes

Healthcare professional information

Name:

License ID number:

Signature:

Gender:

Scott, F. J., Baron-Cohen, S., Bolton, P., & Brayne, C. (2002). The CAST (Childhood Asperger Syndrome Test): Preliminary development of a UK screen for mainstream primary-school-age children. *Autism*, 6(1), 9–31. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361302006001003>