



### PARENT/CLIENT ASD INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

The purpose of the developmental interview is to identify patterns of behavior that do or do not fit the DSM criteria. Since there is both diversity of behaviors and diversity in description of them it is important to listen carefully for clues. Some respondents will start talking and need few prompts- others may need specific prompts. It is important to just ask for descriptive information and steer the respondent away from judgments about the behavior.

Interview map:

ASD is a developmental disorder. That means that it is present from early childhood on so I want to ask some questions about \_\_\_\_\_'s childhood.

#### I PART FOR PARENT

If there is a parent or other person present who observed the individual's childhood start here:

1a **Tell me what kind of baby he/she was:** (prompts- did he eat well, sleep well, did you have concerns)

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**Did he/she do most things at about the same time as other babies, like rolling over, sitting up, babbling, and things like that. Was there anything unusual that you noticed about his/her (- crawling, walking, speech). Before he/she could talk how did he/she ask you for things (A2)**

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2. **As he/she got a little older, as a toddler and preschool child what was he/she like.**

**What did he/she like to play? Was he/she interested in playing with other children? Were other children interested in playing with him/her? Did he/she interact with his siblings? (A1, A3) How structured was your family? Did he/she like routine? How did he/she respond to unexpected changes in routine (B2) Did he/she have things that he/she insisted be done in exactly the same way every time (B2)**

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**Did you notice any particular motor habits (toe walking, hand flapping, etc) (B1)  
What about his/her language. Did he/she ask for things? Report about what he she had been  
doing? Point out interesting things ( A1, B1)**

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**Did he/she seem to respond differently than other children to sound, lights, smells, motion,  
touch? (did he like to be touched, was he picky about clothes, was he a picky eater, seem  
attracted to particular sounds, sights or other sensory input or avoid them?) B4)**

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**Did he/she use gestures such as waving bye bye, nodding for yes, shaking head for no or  
similar gestures? (A2)**

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**Did he/she respond when us used gestures such as pointing? Did he/she respond to your  
facial expressions (look of disapproval or permission) or did you have to use words?**

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**Was it easy to tell what he/she was feeling from his/her facial expressions (A2)**

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**Did he/she go to any kind of preschool group? Did his/her teachers make any comments about him/her? (following directions? (often B3) Playing with other children? (A3), participating in most activities (B3)**

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**As he/she got a little older (4 or 5) did he/she have any particular friends? Did he/she ask you for play dates (A3).**

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**Did you observe he/she playing with other children? If so- did you notice any differences?- (approach, smiling at familiar peers, ) (A1, A20)  
Was he/she more or less wary of strangers than others (A1)**

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**Did he/she have any skills that he was particularly good at ? Were there things that he/she had more trouble with (general uneven development**

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**II Part for client or adult in their lives**

**1b. Many families have stories about different family members, what kind of a baby he was or what she did as a small child. Do you remember anything that others said about you as a child?** (information will be much more limited but is likely to fit into the categories outlined above.

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**2. Now let's think about starting school. What do you remember (or remember about the individual or yourself) in the early years of school, kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> or second grade)**

**Did you like school? (what did you like about it)** (things to notice- liking the structure and routine of school (B2), strong interests in one or more academic pursuit (B3), being teased or bullied (A1 A3) comments about feeling different or not understanding why other kids wanted to play a certain way (A2) sensory issues (B4)

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**Was there anything you were particularly good at (B3)**

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**Do you remember any of the kids in school- who did you play with or sit with at lunch ? Were you teased or bullied more than other kids?(A3)**

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The Therapist

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**Did you ever get in trouble at school? What for? B** (this often picks up not understanding what was expected so unintentionally misbehaving A1,A2)

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**Were there any comments from teachers about you as a student?**

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**Did you need any special help at school?**

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**3. What about later elementary school?** Continue to look for some of the same issues. Often around 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grades social interactions deteriorate (A1, A2, A3)

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**4. What about junior high/middle school?**

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**Where you aware of fashion and fitting in? (A1)**

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**What about having different subjects with different teachers (B2)**

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**Where there subjects that interested you more than others? (B3-especially if individual reports that how well they did in a class depended on liking the subject )**

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**Did you have friends that you hung out with (A3), what did you do? (b3)**

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**How did you respond when you got to the age when kids started wanting to have boyfriends/girlfriends ( A1,A2,A3) (look for comments about not being able to tell when someone was flirting, thinking relationships were silly, or being frequently in abusive relationships).**

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**5. How about high school? Did anything change? (look for the same issues as in 4)  
Did you think about what you would do after high school? (lack of realistic imagination is A3)**

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