**Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) Follow-Up Interview**

**May be used for research or clinical purposes, but please do not post on a website; instead you may post a link to www.mchatscreen.com**

Reference to use if you cite the M-CHAT FUI in research:


Acknowledgement: We thank Joaquin Fuentes, M.D. for his work in developing the flow chart format used in this interview.

The M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview can be downloaded free of charge from http://www.mchatscreen.com

For more information, please contact Deborah Fein (deborah.fein@uconn.edu) or Diana Robins (drobins@gsu.edu)

© Robins, Fein, & Barton, 1999
Instructions for the M-CHAT Follow-Up Interview

Select items based on M-CHAT scores. Administer only those items for which the parent indicated behavior that demonstrates risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), meaning that the item was failed, and/or those which the healthcare provider has concerns may not have been answered accurately.

Note: Only a small number of children whose total score is ≥10 will have a Follow-up Interview score that does not warrant referrals for evaluation and intervention. Providers may opt to bypass the Follow-up Interview when the M-CHAT total score is 10 or greater, and immediately refer the child for diagnostic evaluation and early intervention services.

Score the M-CHAT Follow-up Interview items in the same manner as the M-CHAT. If an item is failed, it indicates risk for ASDs. Failure of two critical items (items 2, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15) or any three total warrants referral to a specialist. Please note that screening positive on the Follow-up Interview does not diagnose ASDs; it indicates increased risk for ASDs.

Please note that if the healthcare provider has concerns about ASDs, children should be referred to a specialist regardless of the score on the M-CHAT or M-CHAT Follow-up Interview.

Please use the following M-CHAT page to record the scores after the interview is completed.
**M-CHAT**

Please score the interview items on this page. Critical items are marked in **BOLD** and reverse score items, meaning those for which a score of “Yes” indicates risk for autism (11, 18, 20, 22) are noted by the word **REVERSE**.

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Does your child enjoy being swung, bounced on your knee, etc.?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Does your child take an interest in other children?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Does your child like climbing on things, such as up stairs?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Does your child enjoy playing peek-a-boo/hide-and-seek?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Does your child ever pretend, for example, to talk on the phone or take care of a doll or pretend other things?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to ask for something?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Does your child ever use his/her index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Can your child play properly with small toys (e.g. cars or blocks) without just mouthing, fiddling, or dropping them?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Does your child ever bring objects over to you (parent) to show you something?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Does your child look you in the eye for more than a second or two?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Does your child ever seem oversensitive to noise? (e.g., plugging ears)</td>
<td><strong>REVERSE</strong> Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Does your child smile in response to your face or your smile?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Does your child imitate you? (e.g., you make a face—will your child imitate it?)</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Does your child respond to his/her name when you call?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>If you point at a toy across the room, does your child look at it?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Does your child walk?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Does your child look at things you are looking at?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Does your child make unusual finger movements near his/her face?</strong></td>
<td><strong>REVERSE</strong> Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Does your child try to attract your attention to his/her own activity?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Have you ever wondered if your child is deaf?</td>
<td><strong>REVERSE</strong> Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Does your child understand what people say?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Does your child sometimes stare at nothing or wander with no purpose?</strong></td>
<td><strong>REVERSE</strong> Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Does your child look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something unfamiliar?</td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical Score:**

**Total Score:**
1. You reported that _________ does not enjoy being swung, bounced on your knee, etc.

   Is this still true?

   No

   Then s/he does enjoy being bounced or swung?

   Yes

   No

   PASS

   When you swing or bounce him/her, how does s/he react?

   Laughs or smiles  Yes ☐  No ☐
   Talks or babbles   Yes ☐  No ☐
   Requests more by holding out his/her arms Yes ☐  No ☐

   Other (Describe): ..........................................................

   ..........................................................

   If NO to all  FAIL

   If YES to any specific examples  PASS

   If other is clearly a positive response  PASS
2. You reported that __________ does not take an interest in other children. (Critical)

Is this still true?

- No

Then your child does take an interest in other children?

- Yes

Is he/she interested in children who are not his/her brother or sister?

- No

When you are at the playground or supermarket, does your child usually respond to the presence of another child?

- Yes

How does your child respond?

- No

FAIL

PASS

(Ask all)

NO to all

FAIL

PLAYS with the other child: Yes □ No □
Talks to the other child: Yes □ No □
Aggressive behavior: Yes □ No □
Vocalizes: Yes □ No □
Looks at the other child: Yes □ No □
Smiles at the other child: Yes □ No □

If yes to any:

Does s/he (fill in responses given here- e.g. plays, talks, smiles, looks, or vocalizes) more than half of the time?

- No

FAIL

PASS

Yes
3. You reported that __________ does not like climbing on things, such as up stairs.

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then s/he does like climbing on things?
    - Yes
    - No

- Yes
  - Then s/he does not like climbing on things?
    - Yes
    - No

Does he/she enjoying climbing on:

- ... stairs?
- ... chairs?
- ... furniture?
- ... playground equipment?

- Yes to any
  - PASS
- No to all
  - FAIL
4. You reported that ________ does not enjoy playing peek-a-boo / hide – and – seek.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does enjoy playing peek-a-boo or hide-and-seek?

Yes

No

PASS

Examples

What does s/he do if you try to play a game like peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake (or example given) with him/her?

Smiles/laughs
Vocalizes pleasure
Requests more verbally
Requests more nonverbally

Yes  No
Yes  No
Yes  No
Yes  No

Refuses to play
Cries
Not interested in those games
Leaves situation if parent initiates

Yes  No
Yes  No
Yes  No
Yes  No

If yes to example(s) from above

PASS

Pass response

What is more typical?

If yes to examples from both

Pass response

If yes only to example(s) from above

FAIL

Fail response
5. You reported that __________ does not ever pretend, for example, to talk on the phone or take care of dolls, or pretend other things.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does pretend play?

Yes

No

Can you give me an example?

Yes

No

Can you give me an example?

Yes

No

Does he/she ever play make believe?

If parent gives any examples listed, it is a pass.

If no, ask examples individually

If parent did not give any example listed

If parent gave any example listed:

Push a car on a pretend road ________

Does he/she put a toy pot on stove or stir imaginary food?_____

Pretend to vacuum or mow lawn ________

Feed self with a toy spoon or empty cup_____

Feed a doll with real or imaginary food?_____

Pretend to be a robot, an airplane, a ballerina, or any other favorite character_____

Put an action figure or doll into a toy car or truck_____

Pretend to talk on the telephone _________

If parent did not give any example listed

PASS

FAIL
6. You reported that __________ does not use his/her pointer finger to point, to ask for something.

  Is this still true?

  No

  Then your child does use his/her pointer finger in order to ask for something?

  Yes

  No

  PASS

  Yes

  If there is something your child wants that is out of reach, such as a cookie up on a counter, how does he/she get it?

  Points ________

  Reaches for the object with the whole hand ______
  Leads the parent to the object ______
  Tries to get the object for him/herself ______
  Asks for it ______

  If responds with any of the above:

  If you said “Show me,” would he/she point at it?

  Yes
  No

  FAIL
7. You reported that ___________ does not use his/her pointer finger to point, to indicate interest in something. (Critical)

Is this still true?

Yes

Then your child does use his/her pointer finger in order to point to indicate interest in something?

Yes

Does your child ever want you to see something interesting such as......

...an airplane in the sky
Yes □ No □
...a truck on the road
Yes □ No □
...a bug on the ground
Yes □ No □
...an animal in the yard
Yes □ No □

No

If Yes:

How does your child draw your attention to it? Would he/she point with his/her pointer finger?

Yes

Is this to indicate interest, not to get help?

Yes

FAIL

No

FAIL

PASS

No

PASS
8. You reported that ________ does not play properly with small toys (e.g. cars or blocks) without just mouthing, fiddling, or dropping them. Is this still true?

- No

Then your child does know how to play properly with small toys?

- Yes
- No

Can you give me an example?

How does he/she play with toys?

PASS

- Stacks blocks
- Does simple puzzles
- Plays with cars/ trucks
- Plays with a shape sorter
- Stacks rings on a stick
- Nests cups inside each other

FAIL

- Puts toys in mouth
- Throws toys
- Doesn’t play with toys
- Swallows pieces
- Lines toys up
- Carries one toy around the house
- Stares at toys

If yes only to example(s) from above

PASS

If yes to examples from both

FAIL

What is more typical?

PASS

- Pass response

FAIL

- Fail response
9. You reported that ________ does not bring objects over to you (parent) to show you something. (Critical)

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does bring objects over to show you?

Yes

No

Yes

Does your child sometimes bring you:

A picture or toy just to show you? ____
A drawing he/she has done? ____
A flower he/she has picked? ____
A bug he/she has found in the grass? ____

If yes to any:

Yes

Is this just to show you, not to get help?

Yes

No

FAIL

No

PASS
10. You reported that __________ does not look you in the eye for more than a second or two?

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does look you in the eyes for more than a second or two?

Yes

No

PASS

Yes

No

Does s/he look you in the eyes when s/he needs something? ___
When playing with you? ___
During feeding? ___
During diaper changes? ___
When you are reading him/her a story? ___

Yes only to one

Yes to two or more

No to all

PASS

FAIL

On a day when you are together all day, does he/she look you in the eyes at least 5 times?

Yes

No

PASS

FAIL
11. You reported that __________ sometimes seems oversensitive to noise.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does not seem oversensitive to noise?

No, he/she does not

Yes, he/she does

PASS

If yes to two or more, continue:

How does your child react to (list noise that child does not like)?

PASS

Calmly covers ears ___
Expresses displeasure verbally ___

FAIL

Screams ___
Cries ___
Covers ears while upset ___

If yes only to example(s) from above

What is more typical?

PASS

Pass response

FAIL

Fail response

If yes only to example(s) from both

If yes only to one:

PASS
12. You reported that ________ does not smile in response to your face or your smile.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does smile in response to your face or your smile?

Yes

No

PASS

Ask specifically about below examples if parent does not give any

PASS

What makes ________ smile?

PASS

FAIL

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

If yes only to example(s) from above

If yes to examples from both:
13. You reported that ______ does not usually imitate you. (Critical)

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then your child does imitate you?
    - Yes
      - Does your child copy you if you:
        - Stick out your tongue? Yes ☐ No ☐
        - Make a funny sound? Yes ☐ No ☐
        - Wave good bye? Yes ☐ No ☐
        - Clap your hands? Yes ☐ No ☐
        - Put your fingers to your lips to signal “Shhh”? Yes ☐ No ☐
        - Blow a kiss? Yes ☐ No ☐
    - No
  - No

If yes to two or more

PASS

If yes to one or none

FAIL
14. You reported that ________ does not respond to his/her name when you call.
(Critical)

Is this still true?

No
Then your child does respond to his/her name?

Yes
No

PASS

Yes

If he/she is not doing anything particularly fun or absorbing, would he/she usually respond to his/her name being called?

No
Yes

PASS

What does he/she do when you call his/her name?

If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples

PASS

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

Looks up _______
Talks or babbles _______
Stops what he/she is doing _______

If yes only to example(s) from both

Pass response

What is more typical?

Pass response

FAIL

No response
Seems to hear but ignores parent _______
Parent needs to be in child’s face _______
Responds only if touched _______

If yes only to example(s) from above
15. You reported that if you point at a toy across the room, ________ does not look at it. (Critical)

- Is this still true?
  - Yes
    - If you point at something, what does your child typically do?
      - If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples
        - Ignores parent _____
        - Points to object ______
        - Looks around room randomly____
        - Looks and comments on object _____
        - Looks if parent points and says “look!” ____
  - No
    - Then your child does look at objects that you point to?
      - No
        - What is more typical?
          - Pass response
            - If yes only to example(s) from above
              - PASS
            - If yes to examples from both
              - PASS
          - Fail response
            - If yes only to example(s) from above
              - FAIL
        - Yes
          - PASS
            - If yes only to example(s) from above
              - PASS
          - FAIL
            - If yes to examples from both
              - FAIL
16. You reported that your child does not walk.

Is this still true?

- No
  - Then your child walks without holding on?
    - Yes
      - PASS
    - No
      - FAIL

- Yes
  - FAIL
17. You reported that ___________ does not look at things you are looking at.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does look at things you are looking at?

Yes

No

Yes

No

PASS

If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below examples

PASS

Looks at object you are looking at _______
Points to object _______
Looks around to see what you are looking at _______

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

What does s/he do when you are looking at something?

FAIL

If yes only to example(s) from above

What is more typical?

Pass response

FAIL

Fail response
18. You reported that ____________ makes unusual finger movements near his/her face.

Is this still true?

No

Then he/she does not make any unusual finger movements?

No

Yes

PASS

If parent does not spontaneously respond, ask below below examples

Looks at hands
Moves fingers when playing peek-a-boo

Wiggles his/her fingers near his/her eyes
Holds hands up close to eyes
Holds hands off to the side of his/her eyes
Flaps hands near face
Other (describe)

If yes to any fail response

Does this happen more than twice a week?

No

PASS

Yes

FAIL
19. You reported that ____________ does not try to attract your attention to his/her own activity.

Is this still true?

No

Then he/she does try to attract your attention to his/her own activity?

Yes

No

Does he/she….

Say “Look!” or “Watch me!” ______
Bring a toy or activity to show you (parent) ______
Look expectantly to get praise or comment ______
Keep looking to see if you’re (parent) is looking ______

Ask each item.

If yes to any or sometimes to two or more

PASS

If yes to none or sometimes to one or fewer

FAIL
20. Have you wondered if your child is deaf?

*Ask all parents:*

Has your child’s hearing been tested? *If YES*, what were the results?

*Note results* _____ Hearing impaired _____ Hearing in normal range

*If hearing is impaired > PASS*

*Note: If parents report that they wondered about their child’s hearing only as part of a routine checkup > PASS*

*Note: Regardless of hearing test results, if child ignores sounds or people > FAIL*
21. You reported that ____________ does not understand what people say?

Is this still true?

No

Then he/she does understand what people say?

Yes

When the situation gives him/her a clue, can he/she follow a command? For example, when you are dressed to go out and you tell him/her to get his/her shoes...

If yes

FAIL

No

If no or sometimes

Pass

Yes

When the situation does not give any clues, can he/she follow a command (e.g., “show me your shoe” without any gestures)? Use other examples as needed: “Bring me the book”; “Bring me my keys”.

If yes

PASS

No

FAIL

If it is dinnertime and food is on the table, and you tell the child to sit down, will he/she come sit at the table?

Yes

No

FAIL

PASS

Yes

FAIL

No

PASS
22. You reported that __________ sometimes stares at nothing or wanders with no purpose.

Is this still true?

No

Then your child does not stare at nothing or wander with no purpose?

No

Yes

Can you give me some examples of this behavior?

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

(If not stated above) Does your child often stare off into space?

No

Yes

(If not stated above) Does he/she like to walk around the edges of the room instead of settling down with an activity?

Yes to either example

No to both examples

NOTE (Only if parent asks): these behaviors need to last for at least a couple of minutes.

Does he/she do this behavior (fill in behavior parent indicated) often- at least several times per week? ____________

Does he/she walk in circles (not in play to make self dizzy) often- at least several times per week? ____________

Yes to either

No to both

Does he/she do this only when tired?

Yes

No

PASS

FAIL
23. You reported that ______________ does not usually look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something unfamiliar and a little scary.

- **Is this still true?**
  - No
  - Yes

- **Then he/she does look at your face to check your reaction when faced with something scary?**
  - Yes
  - No

- **If your child hears an unfamiliar or scary noise, will he/she look at you before deciding how to respond?**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Does your child look at you when someone new approaches?**
  - Yes
  - No

What does your child do when faced with something unfamiliar and a little scary?

- Sometimes or probably looks at parent’s reaction ________
- Probably does not look at parent’s reaction _____________

**PASS**

**FAIL**