

ASD Characteristic	DSM-5	IDEA
	<i>Required for diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	<i>Required for eligibility under Autism category</i>
Difficulty with nonverbal communication	Yes	Yes
Difficulty with social interaction	Yes*	Yes
Difficulty with verbal communication	No	Yes
	<i>2 of the following are also required:</i>	<i>Listed as a common characteristic (but not required):</i>
Stereotyped movements or repetitive activities**	Yes	Yes
Resistance to change, insistence on sameness	Yes	Yes
Unusual responses to sensory input	Yes	Yes
Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in focus or intensity	Yes	No
Causes impairment in functioning/performance	Yes	Yes
Symptoms present in early childhood	Yes, but may not fully manifest until later	Generally, but not required if above criteria are met
Not better explained by:	Intellectual impairment	Serious emotional disturbance

*Specifically, difficulty with social-emotional reciprocity AND with developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships

**DSM-5 also includes repetitive speech in this category