

Disorder	Onset	Delay	Severity	Domains affected
Autism	Prior to age 3	May or may not have general delays Children with fewer cognitive deficits may be referred to as having "high functioning autism"	Typically has more characteristics than number required for diagnosis in all three areas	Social, communication, and repetitive behaviors
Asperger Syndrome	May be before or after age 3	No general delay in cognition or language	Has more social characteristics than required for diagnosis	Social and circumscribed interests
Atypical Autism or Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)	May not be before age 3	May or may not have general delays	May have fewer characteristics than needed to have diagnosis of autism	Social and EITHER communication or repetitive behaviors

Adapted from Lord and Risi (2000). Diagnosis in young children. In Wetherby and Prizant, Eds., Autism Spectrum Disorders: A transactional developmental perspective (pp. 11-30). Baltimore: Paul H Brooks