

| Behavior Criteria | | |
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| Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, as manifested by at least two of the following, currently or by history: | | |
| 1) Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech | | |
| Behaviors | Child Examples | Adult examples |
| Echolalia, spinning wheels, shaking objects | Repeating the words of others frequently. Repeating the same actions on objects without trying new actions. Limiting interactions with objects to a few key actions, such as shaking all objects, even if they are not meant to be shaken. | Having certain set routines that they use with objects, such as always using 100 strokes when brushing their hair. |
| 2) Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines or ritualized patterns of nonverbal or verbal behavior | | |
| Behaviors | Child Examples | Adult examples |
| Greeting rituals, insistence on wearing the same type of clothing or shoes | Refusing to try on new shoes, and insisting that the same sandals be worn all year, regardless of the weather or the season. | Saying the same things in certain social situations, such as always introducing themselves in the same way, even to familiar persons. |
| 3) Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus | | |
| Behaviors | Child Examples | Adult examples |
| Perseverative play, focus on certain topics | Repeatedly playing with the same toy over and over. For example, repeatedly drawing the same image over and over, and refusing to draw new images. | Talking incessantly about a limited number of topics, such as telling all conversational partners about train routes, regardless of the person's interest in the topic. |
| 4) Hyper- or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment | | |
| Behavior | Child Examples | Adult Examples |
| Sounds | Demonstrating extreme fear in response to household noises, such as the blender or vacuum. | Failing to respond at an appropriate level to pain or changes in temperature, such as extreme heat or cold. |

Adapted from DSM 5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013)