

Participant ID _____ Date _____

Parent interview: behaviours related to PDA. Many items and example questions were based on the PDA items included in Lorna Wing and Judy Gould's "Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders" or "DISCO"; (Wing et al, 2002).

1. Obsessively resists and avoids ordinary demands, led by need to control

- How did things go when A started nursery/ school?
- Does A strongly resist attempts to make him or her do things, or change his or her behaviour? What sorts of requests does A avoid?
- Does everything have to be on his/ her terms? What happens if you push A to comply or accept limits?
- Does A dislike praise?

2. Socially manipulative behaviour to avoid demands

- Would you describe A as good at getting round others and making them do as s/he wants, or playing people off against each other?
- What strategies does A use to get out of things? Are these strategies targeted at a particular person?
 - Distracting (e.g. asking questions)
 - Apologising and making excuses
 - Withdrawing into role play or toy play
 - Charm
 - Passively (e.g. selective mutism)
 - Other

3. Takes control of the conversation through repetitive questioning/ interrupting

- Does A interrupt conversations to get attention or to take control? If attention is not paid to A, how does s/he react?
- How does A do this? (e.g. repeatedly asking questions, make statements to provoke parents attention).

4. Lacks awareness/ is not concerned about age group or social hierarchy

- Does A seem to have a sense of the “pecking order” – that adults can tell children what to do? Or does A treat everyone the same, seeing no difference between himself and adults/ authority figures?
- Does A tell other children how they should behave, but does not feel these rules apply to him/herself?
- Does A see him/herself as a child?

5. Difficulties interacting with peers- bossy and domineering

- Does A have friends who he/she enjoys spending time with?
- How does she interact with her friends/ peers? (e.g. bossy/ controlling, play with them or using them as aids in own activities)
- What do peers think of A?

6. Little shame/ embarrassment and bizarre/ embarrassing remarks in public

- Does A behave in ways that other people would find embarrassing or shameful in public? (e.g. wetting him/ herself, removing clothes in public, screaming through a school play)?
- Does A make embarrassing personal remarks, or say bizarre things in public? (e.g. asking strangers inappropriate questions or swearing at them, commenting on others’ physical peculiarities)
- Is A aware this behaviour is inappropriate or babyish?

7. Sense of responsibility to others/ social obligation

- Can you appeal to A’s “better nature” to persuade him or her to do things?
- Does A have a sense of obligation towards others (e.g. will stick to a bargain; is nice to friends who come to visit?)
- Can you trust A to tell the truth?

8. Difficulties with peers and siblings

- Does A frequently tease, bully, refuse to take turns, make trouble?

9. Socially shocking behaviour with deliberate intent

- Does A shock other people by unexpectedly inappropriate actions, for no apparent reason? What does A do?
- Does A ever threaten to hurt him/herself, or do things to hurt him/herself?
- Is this behaviour impulsive, or does A do it on purpose to show s/he is in control, cause distress or get attention?

10. Blames others inappropriately/ makes false accusations

- Does A blame other people when things go wrong?
- Does this have an irrational and obsessional quality?
- Does A accuse people of things they haven't done?

11. Behaviour towards younger children and pets

- Can you rely on A always to be kind to younger children and pets?
- Would you be happy to leave A alone with a younger child (e.g. let him/her babysit), knowing that s/he would be kind?

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12. Emotional response to others' distress

- Does A react inappropriately to others' emotions (e.g. becoming excited when someone is upset, failing to react at all?).

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13. Changeable mood/ extreme emotional responses

- Does A have frequent marked swings of mood for no obvious reason, or in response to minor things?
- Do switches in mood lack an "emotional legacy" – changing suddenly from one mood to the next?

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14. Rapid, inexplicable changes from loving to aggression

- Does A slip from loving to violent or aggressive behaviour (or vice versa) for no apparent reason?
- Does A seem to display affection in an aggressive way (e.g. squeezing someone too hard; digging their nails in whilst holding hands).

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15. Laughs or becomes "silly" or over-excited for no reason

- Does A ever laugh for no reason? Is this laughter unusual?
- Does A ever seem to get "high" or extremely over-excited, and if so, what brings this on?

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16. Role play/ imaginative play – lives the part, not the usual pretence

- Does A act out the role of an object, animal, fictional person or real person, so that A seems to become the acted role- it is not just pretence? If not role play, imaginative play?
- Are these new or embellished stories, or just copied exactly from TV or films?
- Is this a major part of A's play/ unusual for someone of their age?
- Is it difficult for A to come back to reality?

17. Social mimicry

- Does A mimic adult mannerisms and styles from people s/he knows, computer games or tv (e.g. uses phrases adopted from teacher/parent to tell other children off)?
- Uses over-animated facial expressions, possibly practising these in front of a mirror?

18. Fantasises, tells tall tales

- Tells tall tales in a way that is inappropriate for their age
- Does A talk about fantasies as if real?

19. Communicates indirectly (e.g. through doll, props, picture cards, puppet, toy animal, or as a persona)

- Does A use a doll, puppet or object to communicate needs?
- Does A seem more comfortable communicating indirectly (e.g. using picture cards instead of speaking; having adopted a role)?

20. Obsessed with a particular person, real or fictional

- Is A obsessed with a person, real or fictional; or have over-intense friendships with others?
- Does A behave in inappropriate ways towards this person, perhaps causing them distress? (A may display love or hatred towards this person).

21. Unusually quiet & passive in infancy; hands limp for unwelcome tasks

- Was A an exceptionally good baby compared to others of the same age? Did you feel "I did not know I had a baby in the house"?
- Was A very passive (e.g. reluctant to crawl; dropped objects placed in his/her hands, and did not reach for them)? Did it seem as though nothing was worth the bother for A?
- Was A 'floppy' or limp as a baby?
- Was A content to watch other children play - observing rather than joining in?
- Did A become more actively resistant over time?

22. Language delay

- Were you concerned about your child starting to talk later than others born around the same time?
- Once s/he had started talking, did s/he seem to catch up very rapidly?

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23. Other concerns

- Do you have any other concerns about aspects of your child's behaviour not covered in this questionnaire?