

Rapid Interactive Screening Test for Autism in Toddlers (RITA-T)

The RITA-T is an empirically based, observational and interactive measure developed to screen for autism in children between 18 and 36 months of age. It is a level 2 screening test for young children identified at risk for ASD, or who scored positive on a Level 1 screening test. The RITA-T includes nine semi-structured play-based presses that examine constructs that have been described to be delayed in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Each play-based press looks at the integration of 1 or 2 constructs, including: joint attention, visual problem solving, human agency (the precursor for the Theory of Mind), social awareness, communication, and self-awareness. Three items are also related to the developmental level of the child and coded "C" for cognition. The RITA-T differentiates well between toddlers with ASD and toddlers with Developmental Delay (DD)/Non-ASD. A total score is then calculated by adding the 9 individual press scores.

| Item/Press | Constructs Measured | Total Score | Notes/Observations |
|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Blocking of Toy Phone | Social Awareness (SA) and awareness of Human Agency (HA) | XX (0-4) | |
| Phone Tease | Social awareness (SA) and Joint Attention (JA) | XX (0-3) | |
| Blocked Vision | Human Agency (HA), Joint Attention (JA) | XX (0-3) | |
| Magic Ball | Visual problem solving/Cognitive (C), Joint Attention (JA) | XX (0-3) | |
| Color Constancy: (Scarf) | Cognitive/developmental construct (C), and Joint Attention/shared surprise (JA). | XX (0-4) | |
| Preference Objects vs. Faces | Social Awareness (SA) and preference for object vs. face | XX (0-2) | |
| Response to Rapid Joint Attention | Rapid Joint Attention (JA) | XX (0-1) | |
| Reaction to Caregiver's emotions (Sad) | Social Awareness (SA); communication | XX (0-4) | |
| Reaction to Caregiver's emotions (Neutral) | Social Awareness (SA); communication | XX (0-4) | |
| Mirror: Self-Recognition | Self-Awareness (SA). This is a developmental measure (C). | XX (0-2) | |
| TOTAL SCORE | | XX (0-30) | |

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|---|--|
| Behavioral Observations: | |
| An additional "Behavioral Observations" item can be completed during this testing. This is qualitative: | |
| Hyperactivity | |
| Sensory Seeking Behaviors | |
| Repetitive Behaviors | |
| Difficulty Getting Attention | |
| OTHER | |

Summary of observations:

Based on current cut-off-scores:

A score between 12 and 16 is a grey area or moderate risk, and child will need further evaluation
 A score above 16 is high risk and concerning for Autism Spectrum Disorder.
 A score below 12 is low risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

However, always use your clinical judgement and impressions in making referrals

TOTAL SCORE AND RISK INTERPRETATION: * (LOW/MODERATE/HIGH RISK)**