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Title: The Diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder

Description: A general overview of some of the characteristics of Pervasive Developmental Disorder

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The Diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder

To be diagnosed with one of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders including Autism Spectrum Disorder, the child must have a specific number of characteristics in 3 categories:

1. Social Interaction
2. Communication
3. Behaviour

The specific diagnosis is based on the number of characteristics and the severity of those characteristics. Some of the possible characteristics may include:

1. **Social Interaction**

- Unusual eye contact
- Different and/or decreased interaction
- Relates better and more frequently to adults than children
- Prefers to do things without seeking help from others

2. **Communication (verbal and nonverbal)**

- Delay in spoken language
- Difficulty understanding directions
- Difficulty starting and continuing a conversation
- May repeat words/phrases that other people say
- Limited pretend play
- Gets needs met by taking an adult's hand
- Uses gestures to communicate

3. **Behaviour**

- Repeats actions e.g. often plays with fingers, rocks body, jumps
- Unusual play e.g. puts toys in line, repeatedly spins toys
- Difficulty with change. Prefers things to stay the same.
- Unusual reactions to sound, smell, taste, touch or visual sensations

Note: This is a general over view and should be accompanied by more detailed information.