

FAQ: M-CHAT-R/F

See also *Instructions for Use and Scoring Algorithm* included with the M-CHAT-R/F.

What is the M-CHAT-R/F?

- “Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised with Follow-Up” *Robins, Fein & Barton, 2009*
- A screening tool used to identify young children at risk for autism.
- A two-stage, parent-reporting tool that can be administered during well-child visits.
- An expanded version of the original 9-question Checklist for Autism in Toddlers. (*CHAT; Baron-Cohen et al., 1992*)
- Current version includes 23 Yes/No questions.
- Written at the 6th grade reading level.
- Available in multiple languages including Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, and more.
- Requires no special training to administer or score the tool, and scoring is easy and usually takes 2-5 minutes.

When is it used?

- Validated for use with children ages 16-30 months (no need to adjust for prematurity).
- The AAP recommends an autism-specific screening at 18- and 24-months.
- It’s also used when parents report a concern, and across time points for surveillance.

How is it used?

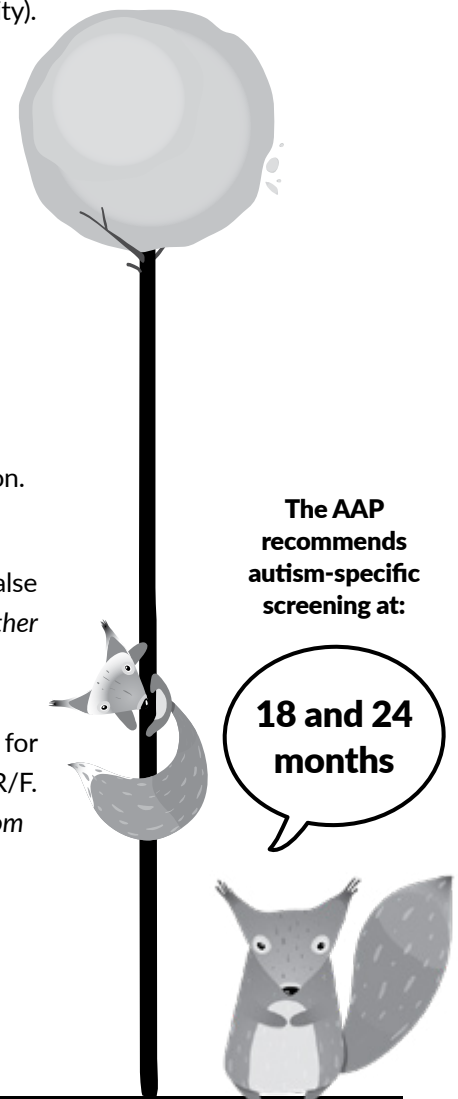
- Caregiver completes the M-CHAT-R by circling/marketing the appropriate response. Every question should be answered.
- Score the M-CHAT-R.
- If a score indicates a risk for autism, administer the *Follow-Up Interview*.
 - > Select Follow-Up items based on the items failed on the M-CHAT-R.
 - > Follow the flowchart for each question until a Pass or Fail response is scored.
 - > Score the Follow-Up Interview.
 - > If a child screens positive, refer for diagnostic evaluation and early intervention.

Anything else I need to know?

- The M-CHAT was developed to maximize sensitivity and may result in a high false positive rate. (*Note: many children who score false positive may still be at high risk for other developmental disorders.*)
- The Follow-Up questionnaire was developed to reduce false positives.
- If a healthcare provider or parent/caregiver has concerns about autism, a referral for evaluation should be made, regardless of the score on the M-CHAT-R or M-CHAT-R/F.
- T-R/F is a copyrighted instrument; it can be downloaded for free at: mchatscreen.com

Where can I get more information or training?

Help Me Grow Ventura County
Call: (805) 244-6911
Email: helpmegrow@first5ventura.org



The AAP recommends autism-specific screening at:

18 and 24 months