**Table 1**

## Early signs and symptoms - adapted from the NAPC

### Qualitative abnormalities in communication

- Delay or lack of development of spoken language that is not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through the use of gesture or mime
- A lack of babbling
- A lack of pointing to express interest or a lack of spontaneous pointing
- Odd speech patterns, words or phrases, echolalia, unusual tone and pitch

### Qualitative abnormalities in social interaction

- Poor eye contact
- Failure to follow gaze
- Limited social smiling - does the child spontaneously smile in greeting?
- Limited imitation of others (also seen in play) - for example, pretends to mow lawn
- Poor use of gestures - for example, shakes head, nods, waves and claps
- Failure to show an interest
- Does the child show things of interest? For example, brings toys to parent?
- Does the child respond to others' emotions?
- Limited pretend and imaginative play
- Limited social play - for example, peekabo, pat a cake

### Restricted and repetitive interests and behaviours

- Repetitive play - for example, lining up cars
- Unusual interests, interest in non-functional elements of play material
- Oversensitivity to household noises
- Extreme adverse reaction to change in routine
- Motor mannerisms or stereotyped behaviour - for example, hand flapping
- Sensory hypo/hypersensitivity