

Table 3

Behaviours indicating autism in adults with a moderate or severe learning disability

- Problems with social interaction including: being aloof, indifferent or unusual, interacting with others only when necessary, difficulty with two-way interaction
- Lack of responsiveness to other people
- Difficulty adapting behaviour to different social situations
- Limited expression of empathy
- Repetitive activities (spinning, hand flapping, rocking) which become more prominent at times of stress or are used as a way of expressing emotion

Adapted from NICE CG142. Autism in adults²