

Symptom Checklist for Children Under Age 5

This checklist is a screening device and is only one component of a professional diagnostic assessment. It should not be used as a stand-alone measurement.

- Cries; miserable all the time, chronically fussy
- Resists comforting or nurturance
- Resists or dislikes being held
- Poor eye contact or avoids eye contact
- Flat, lifeless affect (too quiet)
- Likes playpen or crib more than being held
- Rarely cries (overly good baby)
- Angry or rageful when cries
- Exceedingly demanding
- Looks sad or empty-eyed
- Delayed milestones (creeping, crawling, etc.)
- Stiffens or becomes rigid when held
- Likes to be in control
- Does not hold on when held (no reciprocal holding)
- When held chest to chest, faces away
- Doesn't like head touched (combed, washed)
- Generally unresponsive to parent
- Cries or rages when held beyond his wishes
- Overly independent play or makes no demands
- Reaches for others to hold him rather than parent
- Little or reduced verbal responsiveness
- Does not return smiles
- Shows very little imitative behavior
- Prefers Dad to Mom
- Gets in and out of parents lap frequently
- Physically restless when sleeping
- Does not react to pain (high pain tolerance)
- Overly affectionate to strangers
- Feeding problems
- Speech development delayed

This list was adapted from Walter Buening, Ph.D.; *Toddler adoption: The Weaver's Craft* by Mary Hopkins-Best; and *What You Should Know before You Adopt a Child* by the Institute for Attachment and Child Development.