

## Parent’s Observations of Social Interactions (POSI)

### Overview

The Parent’s Observations of Social Interactions (POSI; The SWYC.org, 2015) is a seven-item screening instrument for autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The POSI was created as one part of a comprehensive screening instrument designed for pediatric primary care, and is available at The Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children (SWYC). Items for the POSI were selected by a team of experts who reviewed existing assessment instruments and relevant research literature. The POSI is a parent reported paper questionnaire that takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Questions were modeled after the M-CHAT with two additions. There are five response options for each question that vary based on the specific question, and the responses represent the severity of the behavior.

### Summary

Name of Tool/Author	Screening/ Diagnosis	Age Range*	Method of Administration/Format	Approximate Time to Administer	Subscales
Parent’s Observations of Social Interactions (POSI)**, 2015.	S	0–5	Paper administration  Parent reads and responds to seven items (5 <sup>th</sup> grade reading level)	5 min. or less	N/A

\*In years except where noted. \*\*Instrument requires special training to administer.

Availability: [www.TheSWYC.org](http://www.TheSWYC.org), <http://bit.ly/1SnMxx8>

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### Research

Author (Year)	Age Range (in years)	Sample Size	Topic Addressed	Outcome
Smith, Sheldrick & Perrin, 2013	Study 1: 1.5-4	217	Internal reliability and concurrent validity (with M-CHAT)  Reliability and validity  Reliability and validity	<p>POSI Sensitivity (89%), higher than M-CHAT (71%; <math>p &lt; .05</math>).</p> <p>Specificities not significantly different (POSI: 54%, M-CHAT: 62%).</p> <p>Sensitivity (83%) compared favorably to M-CHAT) (50%). Specifier was lower (75% vs. 84%).</p> <p>Despite brevity, good internal reliability and comparable sensitivity/specificity to the M-CHAT.</p> <p>Results of both studies: Despite the brevity, POSI demonstrated good reliability and comparable sensitivity/specificity to the M-CHAT.</p> <p>Cronbach’s rho 0.83 to 0.86. Adequate reliability to M-CHAT.</p>
	Study 2: 1.8-2.8	232		
		232		

### References

Smith, N. J., Sheldrick, C., & Perrin, E. L. (2013) An abbreviated screening instrument for autism spectrum disorders. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 34(2), 149–155.