CLÍNICA VIVALDI · FREE SHEET · NEURODEVELOPMENTAL

Social communication disorder (pragmatic)

Difficulties with social language use: adapting speech to context, respecting turns, understanding the implicit or jokes, without the restricted interests of autism.

COMMON SIGNS

- Takes sentences literally
- Finds it hard to keep a back-and-forth conversation going
- Doesn't adapt how they speak to each person

TIPS FOR YOU

1. Explain social rules explicitly
2. Practise conversations and turn-taking through games
3. Assessment by a speech therapist or psychologist

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

1. Explain clearly what is expected in each situation
2. Practise conversations together with turn-taking games

WHEN TO ASK FOR HELP

1. If they become isolated or are teased
2. If they also have very narrow interests (assess for autism)

TO OBSERVE AND NOTE DOWN

☐ Takes what is said to them literally

☐ Doesn't really understand jokes or irony

☐ Speaks to an adult the same way as to a child

☐ Finds it hard to take turns in conversation

☐ Changes topic out of the blue

☐ Finds it hard to tell a story in order

☐ Doesn't notice when the other person is bored

☐ Has trouble making friends because of how they communicate

FREE RESOURCES

- Online test and tips: clinicavivaldi.com/en/trastorno/trastorno-de-la-comunicacion-social-pragmatico
- Free guide: Childhood and youth: clinicavivaldi.com/en/guia-infancia-juventud
- In Spain: 024 suicide crisis line (24 h) · Emergencies 112