

Parental Acceptance and Understanding of Autistic Children Scale (PAUACS)

Please read the following list of statements, keeping your autistic child/child with autism in mind. If you have more than one autistic child/child with autism, please pick one child to focus on as you respond to the following statements. Please select the number that indicates how much you agree with each statement on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is “strongly disagree” and 7 is “strongly agree”. Please choose the first response that comes to mind, and do not spend too much time on any one statement.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Stimming is a valid coping strategy for my child (i.e., stimming, or self-stimulatory behaviour, involves repetitive physical movements or vocalisations)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. It is important to be open and honest with my child about the fact that they are autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. It is important for my child to have opportunities to explore their strengths	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I expect my child to treat others with respect and kindness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. I expect that my child will grow out of their sensory needs over time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. I believe there are always reasons for my child's behaviours, even when I don't understand them	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. It is important for me to keep learning about autism	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. It is important to learn about autism from autistic people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. My child only misbehaves because they're autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

10. I think my child will eventually grow out of their autism	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Autism is an important part of my child and how they see the world	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. It is important to balance encouraging growth with accommodating my child's needs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. It is important for me to take my child's sensory needs into account	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. It is more important for my child to be happy than to "fit in"	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. It is important to be flexible about how much I protect my child	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. It is important for my child to have the chance to learn from their own mistakes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17. It is important to prevent my child from seeming too different from others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18. I accept that my child is autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19. I am at peace with the fact that my child is autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. I try to learn all I can about autism	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21. I like my child just as they are	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22. I often think of how proud I am of my child	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23. When my child's abilities exceed my expectations, I question whether my child is truly autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24. I struggle to accept my child	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25. If I improve my parenting, my child will be less autistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26. I can imagine my child thriving as an autistic adult	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

27. I would like my child to have other autistic people in their life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28. It is possible for my child to be autistic and have a bright future	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29. Staying flexible is important when parenting an autistic child	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30. I think it is important not to make assumptions about what my child can or cannot do	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Citation:

Lee, J.Y.S., Whittingham, K. & Mitchell, A.E. (2024). Parental acceptance and understanding of autistic children (PAUACS) – an instrument development study. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorder*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-024-06630-w>