

Similarities and Differences between Fragile X Syndrome and Autism



Fragile X Syndrome

Autism

Social avoidance or withdrawal

Shyness and avoidance due to social anxiety, despite being friendly and sociable

Lack of understanding or skills in social interaction

Low eye contact

Avoidance of eye contact

Lack of understanding of eye contact

Self-injury

Typically hand-biting in response to anxiety or excitement

Lack of understanding or skills in social interaction

Difficulties with symbolic play: using one thing to represent something else

Delayed

Distorted or impaired

Language difficulties

Repetitive, rapid and cluttered speech. May repeat heard phrases (echolalia)

Variable language difficulties

Facial expression recognition

Typically, a good understanding

Lack of understanding

Understanding of other people's feelings and beliefs (Theory of Mind)

Distorted by not absent, related to level of learning disability

Impairment