

Prosopagnosia Symptom Checklist

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www.prosopagnosiaresearch.org

Observation of any number or combination of the behavioural symptoms below may indicate prosopagnosia in children or adults. Please note that this does not provide a “diagnosis” of prosopagnosia, but may be used to prompt more formal testing. Please visit www.prosopagnosiaresearch.org/symptoms for support.

Hallmark Symptom	
Confusing characters in films, TV shows and/or plays.	
Inability to identify people in photographs (including famous people, a personally familiar person, or oneself).	
Teachers and/or guardians suggest screening for an alternative developmental disorder, yet this seems inappropriate.	
Appearing “lost” in a crowded place or large gathering (e.g. in the playground, at a train station).	
Severity of difficulties increases in groups where everyone shares a characteristic (e.g. where people wear the same uniform, or are the same age or gender).	
When encountering a person who appears to know them, asks generic questions (nothing personal) until a clue to identity is given.	
Consistently avoids using other people’s names.	
Never introduces themselves to someone else, or two people to each other.	
Relying on extrafacial information to identify someone, and fails to recognise someone when this changes or is unavailable (e.g. hair style or colour; voice or accent; gait or walk; clothing style or uniform).	
Describing people by using extrafacial information (e.g. “that’s Mr X with the motorbike helmet”).	
Confusing people who have similar extrafacial features but are facially dissimilar.	
Unable to identify an unexpectedly encountered familiar person.	
Walking past and accidentally ignoring familiar people when in public (i.e. that individual is out of context).	
A relative ease in recognising people when they appear in expected contexts (e.g. a work colleague in the workplace).	
Believing others to be extraordinarily good at face recognition and/or being amazed by others’ abilities.	
Struggling to reconstruct or imagine a person’s face in one’s mind, and/or being unable to describe that face.	

Reference: Murray, E., Hills, P.J., Bennetts, R.J., & Bate, S. (2018). Identifying hallmark symptoms of developmental prosopagnosia for non-experts. *Scientific Reports*.