

## Common Prescription Medications Used With Autistic Children

Class of Medication	Generic and Brand Names	Symptoms Targeted	Potential Side Effects	Additional Comments
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sertraline (Zoloft)</li> <li>• paroxetine (Paxil)</li> <li>• citalopram (Celexa)</li> <li>• fluoxetine (Prozac)</li> <li>• fluvoxamine (Luvox)</li> <li>• escitalopram (Lexapro)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Repetitive Behaviors</li> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Depression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential risk of suicidal ideation</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Behavioral activation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for food dyes in these medications.</li> <li>• Often used when mood issues are suspected.</li> </ul>
Stimulants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dexamethylphenidate (Focalin)</li> <li>• methylphenidate (Concerta, Ritalin)</li> <li>• dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine, ProCentra, Zenzedi)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impulsivity</li> <li>• Hyperactivity</li> <li>• Inattention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Decreased appetite</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Difficulty falling asleep</li> <li>• Social withdrawal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often used when ADHD is an issue as well.</li> <li>• Watch out for food dyes in these medications.</li> </ul>
Atypical Antipsychotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aripiprazole (Abilify)</li> <li>• risperidone (Risperdal)</li> <li>• olanzapine (Zyprexa)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Inattention</li> <li>• Sleep disturbance</li> <li>• Hyperactivity</li> <li>• Repetitive behaviors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metabolic syndrome</li> <li>• Weight gain</li> <li>• Tremor</li> <li>• Increased salivation</li> <li>• Sedation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for food dyes in these medications.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extrapyrarmidal symptoms</li> </ul>	
Alpha-2-adrenergic Agonists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clonidine</li> <li>• guanfacine (Intuniv)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Sleep disturbances</li> <li>• Inattention</li> <li>• Hyperactivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Sedation</li> <li>• Constipation</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Hypotension</li> <li>• Rebound hypertension if discontinued abruptly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clonidine - not to be confused with Klonopin, a benzodiazepine.</li> </ul>
Anticonvulsant mood stabilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valproic acid (Depakote)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Hyperactivity</li> <li>• Sleep disturbances</li> <li>• Inattention</li> <li>• Repetitive behaviors</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Mood lability</li> <li>• Insomnia</li> <li>• Weight gain</li> <li>• Increased appetite</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't see this used too often anymore, and there are newer and better options available.</li> </ul>
Atomoxetine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Strattera)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inattention</li> <li>• Hyperactivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Potential increased risk of suicidal ideation</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-stimulant option for ADHD-like symptoms</li> <li>• Watch for food dyes in this medication.</li> </ul>
Melatonin		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleep disturbances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daytime sleepiness</li> <li>• Difficulty waking</li> <li>• Enuresis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for paradoxical reactions (makes the child more alert).</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent antioxidant as a side benefit.</li></ul>
Mood stabilizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lithium carbonate (Lithobid)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aggression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Weight gain</li><li>• Frequent urination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must check blood levels periodically.</li></ul>