

Autism Assessment Process

BEFORE	Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer your child for an autism assessment please complete the relevant forms. These are available on our website Referral forms - Children and Family Health Devon Our Neurodiversity Pathway only provides assessment for autism. We do not offer assessment for other neurodivergent conditions.
	Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision on whether a young person is placed on our waitlist is made by clinicians in our Neurodiversity Pathway. If the answer is no, we may ask for some additional information to be gathered or signpost to other support.
	Waitlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our waitlist is dynamic due to a variety of reasons such as different projects and changes in staffing etc. Having a diagnosis can help identify challenges and support that your child might need. However, you do not need to wait for a diagnosis to do this. There is a wealth of information out there that you can access while you are waiting for this assessment. If something changes with a young person's presentation whilst on our waitlist, you can request an expedite which follows specific criteria for a young person to be assessed sooner. We may request up to date information (questionnaires) from school, parents or your child.
DURING	Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are different parts to the assessment and our team will decide which parts are suitable for your child. This may involve one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion of information by a clinician and a Paediatrician. We call this a Paediatric MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting). We will compare this information against the diagnostic criteria for autism (DSM-5). Your child will see a clinician for an in person or online meeting. We call this an ADOS. The clinician will use activities from the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). A clinician will visit your child in school. We call this a School Visit. They will observe them in a lesson and at break or lunch. They will also meet your child in a quiet room and carry out activities (based on the ADOS). They will also have a discussion with your child's teacher. A clinician will have a discussion with parent/carer in person or on a video call, to gather information about how your child grew up and how they are now. We call this a Developmental History. Our team may carry out additional specialist assessments should this be required to reach an outcome, such as a Cognitive Assessment or a Speech and Language Therapy Assessment.
AFTER	MDT Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All information is gathered and discussed within a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to decide whether the young person meets the threshold for Autism diagnosis.
	Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A telephone or video call will be made to communicate if a diagnosis of Autism has been met or not.
	Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An optional feedback meeting can be booked to discuss findings of assessment, signposting, and next steps whether a diagnosis has been made or not.
	Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report will be sent to your child, detailing the assessment, whether a diagnosis has been made, along with recommendations, and signposting for support and resources.