

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Assessment



What does our Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessment involve?

A comprehensive multi-disciplinary diagnostic is conducted by Psychologists and Speech Pathologists with expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our clinicians ensure key areas are investigated and considered for an Autism diagnosis by gathering information from all relevant and available sources and partake in interactions with and observations of the individuals in one or more sessions and settings.

Gathering information from all relevant and available sources, interaction with and observation of the individual being assessed and careful consideration of all the data in light of international diagnostic criteria (DSM5). Assessments may be conducted by a team of professionals in one setting or over a period of time by several professionals in different settings.

The key areas investigated and considered when diagnosing ASD are persistent impairments in social communication and social interaction together with restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities.

If the ASD diagnosis is positive then referral to appropriate intervention services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for an application for inclusion in the scheme. If the Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis is negative but there are other developmental deficits identified by the professionals then refer to NDIS for an application for inclusion to the scheme.

Why someone would need an Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessment

Some early signs of ASD are usually seen in the first 2 years.

The number of signs a child has from each list varies according to the age of the child and how severe the child's ASD is, below are some signs:

Social interaction

- Doesn't point to or hold up objects to show people things, share an experience or show that they want something
- Doesn't consistently respond to their name
- Doesn't sound like they're having a conversation with you when they babble
- Copies what they hear from others or from the TV
- Doesn't understand simple one-step instructions

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Non-verbal communication

- Doesn't use gestures on their own
- Doesn't use eye contact to get someone's attention
- Doesn't smile at caregivers without first being smiled at or tickled

Relationships and play

- Doesn't show interest in other children
- Doesn't start games like peekaboo or pat-a-cake
- Doesn't do pretend play

Restricted interests

- Has an intense interest in certain objects and gets 'stuck' on particular toys or objects.
- Interacts with toys and objects in only one way, rather than more broadly or in the way toys were intended to be played with
- Is very interested in unusual objects or activities
- Focuses narrowly on objects and activities, like lining up objects

Routines

- Is easily upset by change and needs to follow routines

Repetitive movements

- Repeats body movements or has unusual body movements, like back-arching, hand-flapping, arm-stiffening and walking on his toes

Sensory sensitivities

- Extremely sensitive to sensory experiences – for example certain sounds or certain texture
- Seeks sensation – for example rubs objects on their mouth or face, seeks vibrating objects like or flutters their fingers to the side of their eyes to watch the light flicker

What age groups is it suitable for?

Individuals of all ages, however an early diagnosis is preferable to allow families, professionals and the individual to recognise and understand their needs and assist with developing supports.