

Child ASD assessment information for parent/guardian:

We cannot guarantee the outcome of a diagnostic assessment but we will not recommend this assessment if we do not feel there is a very strong likelihood of receiving a diagnosis.

This consists of a multidisciplinary gold standard assessment procedure involving a 3hour developmental interview conducted online (Autism Diagnostic Interview - ADI) and a 1.5 hour play assessment with your child at our offices in Hayle (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - ADOS). These will be done by different clinicians so that we can gather multiple views on your child. We will also collect feedback from your child's school, as well as collating and reviewing relevant reports and assessments you may already have. Once we have all of this information, we will discuss as a team to come to a decision. Both clinicians who have taken part in your assessment will be part of this, as well as an Occupational Therapist or Speech and Language Therapist. This whole process is usually completed within a month from starting the diagnostic assessment.

You will also receive a 1 hour feedback session with your lead clinician to address any questions you have about the assessment outcome and onward journey. This usually takes place around 6 weeks after the report has been issued so that you have a chance to gather any questions.

Some guidance to help you talk to your child about the assessment:

What is ASD?

ASD stands for 'Autism Spectrum Disorder' and these are big words! Everyone's brain works in different ways and that is what makes things so interesting! It's important that we are all different because otherwise life would be boring!

Sometimes people see the world a little differently to others - this can mean that they find some things difficult and struggle to do some things that others don't. This is ASD, you may think about things in a unique way and find some topics especially interesting. But they may also find certain things bothersome and may get overwhelmed in certain situations.

What is an ASD assessment and what will happen in it?

To better understand you and see if you have ASD you're going to have an assessment with a psychologist, this is someone who can find strategies to make things easier.

In the assessment you are going to be asked some questions about how you feel and about the people close to you. You are also going to be asked to do some fun activities like making a story with some objects, playing a game with some toys and doing some puzzles.

Then your parent/guardian will also have an interview, this helps the psychologist to get information about your life at home and when you were very little.

How long does the process take?

The process does take some time, just to make sure you get the best help possible and that it is exactly what you need. It also gives you time to think about questions you might have so that you completely understand what is going on, if you are unsure about anything make sure you ask lots of questions until you completely understand what is happening.

Do I need to bring anything?

Only yourself, a parent/guardian and a drink and snack. You could also bring a sensory toy if you usually find them helpful.