

What to Expect: Autism Spectrum Disorder Evaluation

What Health Care Professionals Are Qualified to Diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Primary care physicians and pediatricians refer a child and family to a specialist for further assessment and diagnosis. Specialists who can do this type of evaluation include:

Child Psychologists/Neuropsychologists or Psychiatrists (doctors who focus on the domains of development, emotion, cognition, education and family)

Developmental Pediatricians (board certified doctors that have subspecialty training in developmental-behavioral pediatrics)

Child Neurologists (doctors who work on the brain, spine and nerves)

Our providers have extensive expertise with ASD and other medical and behavioral conditions. We aim to carefully distinguish ASD from other disorders and to support each family in getting the needed services and treatment.

ASD-Specific Assessment Tools

During the ASD evaluation, we will use at least one of the following ASD-specific assessments tools:

- Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R)
- Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS)
- Social Responsiveness Scale, Second Edition (SRS-2)
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule – Second Edition (ADOS 2)
- Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)

General Behavioral Assessment Tools

We will also use one of the following behavioral assessment tools:

- Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL)
- Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2)
- Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scales (CBRS)/Conners Early Childhood (Conners EC)
- Conners Early Childhood Global Index (CECGI)

Adaptive Behavior Assessment Tools

We will use one of the following adaptive behavior assessment tools:

- Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Third Edition (Vineland-3)
- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Third Edition (ABAS-3)

ASD Evaluation Results

After we have reviewed your child's developmental history and test results, you, as the parent/caregiver, will meet with the evaluator to review the results and ask any questions. This is a separate visit and is typically scheduled 4-6 weeks after a child's evaluation.

For a child diagnosed with ASD, we provide education and resources to help parents learn about ASD and ensure that the family is on the right path to helping the child reach full potential. Parents then meet with one of our knowledgeable client care coordinators to schedule recommended treatment at Keystone or provide referrals to alternative community agencies.