



Kindersave Paediatrics Perth

Kindersave Clinics and Medical Service Australia

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Kindersave clinics ASD assessment Pathway

(for school age children)

Children with ASD have difficulties with social interaction, social communication and social imagination. ASD affects how children perceive and interact with others. ASD shares symptoms with many other developmental conditions. This means that the assessment process can be complex.

We hope to understand your child's strengths and difficulties across three areas: social interaction, social communication and social imagination. Following the assessment, we will decide if a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can explain your child's pattern of difficulties.

We also seek consent for us to gain and share information with other agencies (e.g. school) that support your child, so we can understand your child's strengths and difficulties across different contexts.

What assessments are done on the ASD Pathway?

A number of different assessments may need to be performed. These are detailed below. Please note that not all assessments will be required. Your child's assessment will vary depending on their individual needs. We may liaise with your child's school to gain further information.

Developmental history: A structured interview with parents about your child asking questions about their birth, development and medical history focusing on communication and social interaction.

Structured Diagnostic Interview: A structured interview with parents which asks specific questions about your child's social communication skills.

Cognitive Assessment: A standardised assessment of your child's thinking and learning skills by a clinical psychologist.

Speech and Language assessment: An assessment of your child's speech and language skills with a Speech Pathologist through a variety of tasks and activities.

Autistic Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS): A structured play and question-based assessment completed with your child by a psychologist.

School/ Nursery Questionnaires: To gain additional information about your child within the school/nursery context we ask a member of staff who knows your child well to complete a series of questionnaires about your child's social communication, learning and behaviour.

School Observation: An observation of your child within the classroom setting to observe their social communication with peers usually by a psychologist and/or a speech pathologist.

Who is involved in assessing a child on the ASD Pathway?

Paediatrician: A paediatrician with a special interest in developmental paediatrics.

Clinical Psychology: A Clinical Psychologist who performs the assessment of social communication difficulties for school-age children and offers post-diagnostic support.

Speech Pathologist: A specialist speech pathologist experienced in the assessment of social communication difficulties.

How long will the assessment take: It is difficult to give an exact time because each child requires a different combination of assessments.

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Assessment of referral:

New referrals will be assessed based on information provided in the referral letter and any letter provided by the school or the daycare about their concerns about your child. Referrals for an endorsement of Autism diagnosis already given elsewhere will be rejected.

Initial Appointment (Fees code 132):

After the referral is accepted, a provisional appointment is offered to the patient along with information about the Autism assessment pathway. Once the parent consents to an assessment, screening questionnaires will be sent to the parent (via email). After the completed questionnaires are received an initial appointment is booked. All possible diagnoses that can explain the child's difficulties will be explored during the initial assessment. A plan for management of identified problems and further assessment will be informed.

Second Appointment (Fees code 135):

If an assessment for Autism is determined to be necessary, further questionnaires will be sent to the schoolteacher and parent (via emails). A second appointment to address DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for Autism will be booked. Referral to a psychologist for undertaking ADOS-2 and functional assessments and to a speech pathologist for an assessment of the child's speech and language skills will be made. Autism specific assessment is completed after collating information from paediatrician's assessment with that of psychologist and speech pathologist. Parents will be informed about the outcome of the assessment through a clinical letter.