

How do I get my child an autism evaluation?

What is autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood. ASD is associated with:

- Difficulties in social interaction
- Challenges with verbal and/or nonverbal communication
- Repetitive behaviors or interests.

ASD is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. One person on the autism spectrum can look very different from another individual with the same diagnosis.

What are the benefits of getting my child evaluated for ASD?

- Better understanding of your child, including their strengths and challenges
- Access to specific types of therapy (e.g. Applied Behavior Analysis or ABA)
- Access to funding (e.g., Medicaid, SSI, grants, disability programs)
- Access to supports, services, and protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other local, state and federal laws.

What should I expect from an ASD evaluation?

An evaluation for ASD will include:

- **A caregiver interview** will gather information about your child's birth, medical, and developmental history. Interviews may be in writing, in person or by phone. This should include some rating scales and/or evaluation tools.
- **An observation of the child's behavior** in a home, a healthcare clinic, a medical office, a school, or even online. There may be more than one evaluator who will work with you and your child.

After the evaluation the clinician or team will meet with you to discuss diagnostic impressions and recommendations for interventions and services to help the child make developmental progress. A report will be given or mailed to you with the full results of the evaluation and written recommendations.

Where can I get my child evaluated for ASD?

- **Start with your child's pediatrician.** If you have not already, talk to your child's pediatrician about your child's developmental differences or behavioral challenges. Pediatricians may use developmental screening tools and refer you to specialists for further evaluation.
- **Consider a Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician** who specializes in diagnosing and managing developmental conditions and can follow your child into adulthood. These programs are in high demand, so you may put your child on a waitlist for services while looking into other diagnostic options.
 - [CHOP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics](#), 215-590-7500
3550 Market St (West). Most accessible if already a CHOP patient.
 - [St. Christopher's Developmental Pediatrics](#), 215-427-5531
160 E. Erie Ave (Near Northeast)
 - [Jefferson Health: Einstein Pediatric Specialties](#), 215-456-7170;
5501 Old York Rd (North)
 - [Nemours Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians](#), 800-416-4441;
833 Chestnut St, Ste 300 (Center City)
- **Consider a licensed child psychologist** through your child's health insurance.
 - Call the behavioral health services number on the back of your child's insurance card. For children with medical assistance (Medicaid), call [Community Behavioral Health](#) (CBH) at 888-545-2600.
- **Consider a specialty center.**
 - [The Center for Autism](#), 215-220-2121
4601 Market St (West) and 2801 Grant Ave (Northeast)
 - [SPIN](#), 844-774-6226
10501 Drummond Rd (Northeast)
 - [Behavioral Healthcare at Woods](#), 215-750-4004;
19 Meadowood Dr, Langhorne (Northeast Suburbs)
- **Consider a virtual evaluation.**
 - [As You Are](#) provides virtual autism diagnostic evaluations for kids 16 months to 10 years with board certified pediatricians.
- **Consider Autism Research Studies** that include evaluation services.
 - [CHOP Center for Autism Research](#), 267-426-7540
2716 South St (South)
 - [Drexel Autism Institute](#), 215-571-3401
3020 Market St (West)