



# Autism Child Assessment

Autism is diagnosed by a health professional, usually a psychologist, psychiatrist, or in the case of children, a paediatrician. As there is no biological test for autism it is diagnosed through observation, interaction with an individual, and background information on development, health and behaviour. This information is often gathered through a series of questionnaires, clinical and diagnostic interviews, information gathered from family members and teachers and the administration of standardised tests.

Autism presents differently in each person and therefore assessment processes can vary between individuals and between adults and children.

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### Arranging an Assessment

A parent, carer or health professional can refer a child aged six years or older for an autism assessment. After receiving a referral, the Wellbeings team will contact you to discuss your reasons for seeking an assessment with one of our psychologists. If an assessment seems warranted, you'll be offered an initial appointment to gather more details and information.



### What Happens During a Child's Assessment?

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Information is sought from a range of sources in the assessment of autism for children and adolescents, including interviews with parents/carers, questionnaires and observations of the child or young person during their assessment tasks.

The interactions, observations, developmental history, and other information collected throughout the assessment are evaluated against the diagnostic criteria outlined in the DSM-5-TR.

We will write a report based on our findings, explaining the outcome and the reasons for it. We will meet with you to go through the report and provide you with both a hard copy and an electronic version via email. If applicable, we will also share a copy with the referring health professional. At your request, we can share the report with any other health professionals involved in your care.



### **My Child Has Been Diagnosed with Autism—What Next?**

During your feedback appointment, the ongoing needs of your child and the options available will be discussed. You may choose to seek counselling to explore the information further, either with Wellbeings or another provider.



### **My Child Has Not Been Diagnosed with Autism—What Next?**

Most parents or carers seek out an assessment for their child as they may believe they meet the criteria for diagnosis. If this doesn't occur there may be mixed feelings, relief or frustration. The Wellbeings team is happy to discuss the reasons for not making the diagnosis to help and support you to understand further, and help you find other supports if needed.



### **What Else do I Need to Know?**

The assessment process typically takes several hours over three to four appointments with the child or young person and their parents or carers. In addition, parents, carers and teachers will be asked to complete questionnaires outside of these sessions. The fee for assessment reflects the training, expertise, time and materials necessary to conduct a thorough autism evaluation.

The base cost for a child's autism assessment is \$2,700. This fee includes a cognitive assessment using the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC), which provides valuable insights into your child's strengths and areas where they may require support. Depending on individual circumstances, additional tests may be included. If there is any

variation from the recommended base assessment, you will receive details of the full fee amount before proceeding.

Wellbeings offers flexible payment options, allowing you to pay the full amount upfront or in instalments. Your child's comprehensive assessment report will be provided once full payment has been received.

## **Find Out More**

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