THERAPY4KIDS

Autism Assessment Information Guide

A clear guide to the multidisciplinary assessment pathway and what your family can expect.

A thorough, child-centred pathway

Our Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) assessment pathway brings together information from your family, school and a multidisciplinary clinical team. It follows NICE guidance and uses recognised standardised tools alongside clinical judgement.

The pathway includes several appointments and usually takes around 6-8 weeks from the first parent interview to the final report, provided all required information is available.

> An important point: An assessment cannot guarantee a diagnosis. Whatever the outcome, you will receive a comprehensive report describing your child's profile, the findings and recommendations for support.

Before the pathway begins

Share any relevant reports from school or other professionals before the appointments. Please also give us the best school contact and their email address so our team can coordinate the school elements.

1. Assessment paperwork

The questionnaires help us understand your child across home and school before the clinical appointments.

Forms completed at home

- Therapy4Kids intake form, including signed consent
- Sensory Processing Measure, Second Edition (SPM-2) home form

Forms completed by school

- Therapy4Kids teacher questionnaire
- SPM-2 school form

The SPM-2 helps identify sensory processing patterns and consider whether these create barriers to participation in daily life. The results contribute to the final report.

> Your next step: Complete every form carefully and return it promptly. Tell us if school contact is difficult or if you need help with any part of the paperwork.

2-3. Understanding development across settings

Parents and school provide essential perspectives on your child's development, strengths and everyday experiences.

ADI-R parent interview

The Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised (ADI-R) is a standardised developmental history interview with parents or carers. It lasts approximately two hours and can take place online through Teams or in person at Therapy4Kids. Your child should not attend, allowing an open conversation.

School observation and teacher discussion

A clinician will visit your child's school to observe them in their usual learning environment and speak with their teacher about current strengths and challenges. We arrange the visit directly with school.

Your child should not be told about the observation, helping the clinician see their everyday behaviour as naturally as possible.

> What we need from you: Accurate school contact details and consent for the team to coordinate the observation and questionnaires.

4-5. Clinical assessment and team review

The team combines standardised assessment, observation and information from all parts of the pathway.

ADOS-2 assessment

Your child will meet an ADOS-2 trained clinician for a standardised assessment lasting approximately 1-1½ hours. The session is video recorded so a second clinician can review it, supporting thorough scoring and evaluation.

If your child is under six years old, please bring two snack options for use during the assessment.

Helping your child prepare

You can describe the appointment as time with a clinician who wants to understand how your child thinks, communicates and plays. Explain that there are no right or wrong answers and it is not like a school test. A favourite object and water bottle are welcome.

Team review and scoring

Once the interviews, observation, questionnaires and assessment are complete, the multidisciplinary team meets to review the findings and finalise the scoring. The team then prepares a comprehensive report.

6. Report and parent feedback

We will explain the outcome clearly and help you understand the recommendations and possible next steps.

Comprehensive report

The report summarises the assessment outcome, describes your child's individual profile and provides recommendations for your child, family and school.

Parent feedback session

When the team review and report are complete, you will be invited to a 50-minute feedback session with a clinician involved in the pathway. You will receive the report, discuss the findings and have an opportunity to ask questions and explore further support.

Meet our Autism diagnostic team



Michelle



Anusha



Sarah



Stephanie W

Questions?
Contact our team on 0208 605 2050 or email info@therapy4kids.co.uk. We are happy to explain what happens next.

Therapy4Kids
189 Worple Road, Raynes Park, London SW20 8RE
0208 605 2050 · info@therapy4kids.co.uk · therapy4kids.co.uk

Document owner: Autism Diagnostic Service Lead · Approval: Director · Effective from: September 2026 · Review date: September 2027