

What Are We Looking For?

The main areas we focus on for a diagnosis are:

- **Difficulty with social Communication**

Including use of verbal and non verbal language, taking things literally or finding it hard to read facial expressions or voice tone.

- **Difficulty with social interaction**

Including inability to recognise other people's feelings, preferring to spend time alone and avoiding eye contact.

- **Repetitive behaviours**

Preoccupied with rotating wheels or watching the washing machine spin, lining up toys in certain pattern , opening and closing doors or switching lights on and off.

- **Rigid routines**

Insisting on same routine going out or taking the same route to nursery. Cant accept new things. Unable to coop with change.

- **Sensory sensitivities**

Oversensitive to loud noises and bright light, unable to tolerate certain food or clothes texture, smelling food objects and people and chewing toys, clothes and other objects.

Useful Resources

National Autistic society (NAS)

<http://www.autism.org.uk>

Tel: 0207 833 2299

Lancashire Local Offer

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND>

Tel: 01772 532509

Contact A Family

<https://contact.org.uk/>

Tel: 0808 808 3555

Contact Details

Community Paediatrics

Tel: 01772 777222/777223

Email: childhealth.management@lthtr.nhs.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/community-paediatric-service

Children's Integrated Therapy and Nursing Service (CITNS)

Tel: 01254 283139

Email: CTS.GP@lscft.nhs.uk



Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

Autism Spectrum Disorder

School age assessment

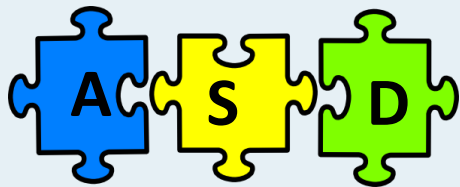


Information for parents and carers

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is the name given to a group of conditions previously known as autism, Asperger syndrome and pervasive development disorder not otherwise specified PDD-NOS.

Individuals with ASD often have difficulties communicating, understanding language and body gestures, and engaging with others. They may have intense interests and struggle to cope with change. They may also have difficulties with sensory stimuli such as noises and textures.



What To Expect?

- Referral from school nurse/ GP/SLT/ others
- Seen by Community Paediatrician for detailed developmental history
- Questionnaires requested from parents and school, and reviewed by Community Paediatrician
- Discussed by the School-Age Autism Assessment Team to decide if further specialist assessment is needed
- School Observation done if in Primary School
- Some children have a language assessment by a Speech Therapist
- Video observation may be arranged
- Then all information collated and compared with diagnostic (DSM5) criteria
- Feedback Appointment to share Assessment Outcome
- Follow up in clinic to answer any questions



Who's in the team?

The School-Age Autism Assessment team is a multiagency group of experienced professionals who assess children and young people referred with social communication difficulties.

The team includes:

Community Neurodevelopmental Paediatricians, a Speech & Language Therapist, a Clinical Psychologist and Learning Disability Practitioners.

The team will gather relevant information from different agencies including school to get a thorough understanding of your child.

The team meet regularly to review progress and discuss whether or not your child meets diagnostic criteria.

