

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](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/community-paediatric-service)

Children's Integrated Therapy and Nursing Service (CITNS)

Tel: 01254 283139

Email: CTS.GP@lscft.nhs.uk



Autism Spectrum Disorder Pathway

Pre-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?

- Your first appointment with the Community Paediatrician will have included a detailed history and your child may have been examined.
- Children are usually also referred to the speech and language therapy service and sometimes to the Portage Service.
- If your child attends nursery, information will be sought from nursery staff and any Educational Professionals who may be involved. These include Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists.
- Your child will be discussed at the multiagency Child Development Team Liaison Meeting that is attended by the Preschool Autism Assessment Team. The first discussion will be to decide if further assessment for ASD is appropriate.
- The Community Paediatrician will gather information and reports from the different professionals involved with your child.
- When all the reports are available, your child will be discussed again by the Preschool Autism Assessment Team to establish if they meet diagnostic criteria for a diagnosis of ASD.
- A Feedback Appointment will be arranged to discuss the outcome of your child's assessment and you will receive a written summary report.
- A follow up in clinic will be arranged to answer any questions you might have about your child's assessment.

Who's in the team?

The Pre-school Age Autism Assessment team is a multi-agency group of experienced professionals who assess children referred with social communication difficulties.

The team includes:

Community Neurodevelopmental Paediatricians, a Speech & Language Therapist, and a Specialist Teacher.

The team gathers relevant information about your child to understand your child's Strengths and Needs. The team uses diagnostic (DSM5) criteria to identify if a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is appropriate.

