



## PREPARING FOR YOUR AUTISM ASSESSMENT

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### Who Comes To The Assessment?

Parents know their children best so at least one parent or guardian must be at the assessment to provide information as well as to support their child. Another family member or care-giver may join you for support.

### What Happens During An Assessment?

The appointment takes about 3 hours. You'll meet your case manager and primary doctor, who may be a pediatrician, psychiatrist or psychologist. In most cases, an autism assessment will be completed at this appointment, and no additional appointments will be required.

There are two parts to the appointment:

1. A detailed parent interview where your primary doctor will ask you about your child's history and development. This interview will take an hour or more. During the interview your child will be taken care of by our qualified child care worker in our play area.
2. An interview with your child/adolescent as well as an interactive observation session that uses toys and games appropriate to your child's age or level of development.

You may have the parent interview OR the child interview first – this is decided at your appointment by your primary doctor to help create the best possible environment for you and your child. If the primary doctor is a pediatrician, your child may have a physical exam at the end of the appointment. No medical investigations will be done at this time.

Your primary doctor will then decide if your child needs additional assessments to help make a diagnosis and/or understand what supports your child needs. Additional assessments may include: psychology, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychiatry and/or medical evaluation. Sometimes additional appointments may be booked at one of our partner clinics in the community. If these assessments have already been done in the community, we'll integrate those results into our overall evaluation. Once all assessments are finished, your child's team will meet to discuss the results.

### When Do I Hear About The Results?

If no additional assessments are required, your primary doctor will discuss the results at the end of the appointment.

If additional assessments are required, we'll book a family conference with you to talk about findings, diagnosis, treatment recommendations, and how to access services. You decide if you would like other people to attend your family conference (e.g. representatives from your child's school). Your child does not need to attend the family conference however an adolescent may choose to attend if she/he wishes.

### When Will I get My Written Report?

If your child has a positive diagnosis for autism, you'll be given a form (clinical outcome form) at the end of the appointment or at the family conference so you can get help immediately. You and your referring doctor will receive a formal report in the mail (this could take up to 6 weeks).

For a more detailed description of the autism diagnostic process please refer to chapter 1 of the Parent Manual – Living and Working with Children with Autism Spectrum disorder in BC. This manual can be located at <http://www.actcommunity.net/AI/Manual.htm>