

A Good Autism Evaluation: What you need to know!

WHY EVALUATE?

- Get a clear diagnostic picture which can help you to understand your child's strengths and weaknesses and how to best help him/her
- Determine which state funding services/waivers your child may be eligible for (i.e. DDS Autism Waiver)
- Work with your school team to determine educational eligibility and classification for your child

WHO SHOULD DO THE EVALUATION?

The most important thing is that the person is **QUALIFIED** to do the evaluation based on their experience and expertise. This means that they have significant experience in evaluating individuals with autism who are in the same age group as your child. A qualified evaluator may be a:

- Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrician,
- Licensed Psychologist,
- Psychiatrist
- Neurologist

Sometimes autism evaluations are done by an interdisciplinary **TEAM** of clinicians. A team evaluation can be a great way to get a lot of information about your child's needs. In addition to the clinicians described above, a team evaluation may include a:

- Speech Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is related to problems with social communication, interactions with others, and repetitive behaviors.

There is no medical test (i.e. blood test) to make the diagnosis.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A GOOD EVALUATION?

There are six core components that every evaluation should include:



**GETTING A GOOD EVALUATION WILL HELP YOU AND
YOUR CHILD FIND THE BEST INTERVENTIONS FOR
SUCCESS!**