

What happens next?

As a team we will go away and discuss all the information we have received from the assessment, along with information from the school. We are not usually able to give a diagnosis on the day, however you will be invited back to be told the outcome of the assessment.

If your child is given a diagnosis of ASD, then we will signpost you to the appropriate specialist services in the area who can support you with this.

If your child is not given a diagnosis, we will think together as to what else might explain your child's difficulties and think about services which may be helpful. It is important to consider other conditions which can present as ASD to ensure the best support is provided.

We will write a report which your GP will get a copy of. We can also send a copy to the school if you consent to this. This will provide information around the assessment and whether we have given a diagnosis or not. This will also include recommendations for further support.

Contact

The Emotional Health Service

42 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3 BW

T: 020 8487 5470

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday: 8.45am to 5.00pm

Friday: 8.45am to 4.45 pm

W: www.afcinfo.org.uk/emotionalhealthservice

Emotional Health Service



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Pre-assessment information

Who are we?

We are the Neurodevelopmental team within the Emotional Health Service. We are a small team who assess children and young people from the ages of 6 to 18 years for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We are made up of psychologists, mental health nurses and psychology assistants. Your child has been referred to our team as it is felt that they may be displaying some symptoms of ASD.

Autism affects how people perceive the world and interact with others. Symptoms can include:

- having a very literal understanding of language and therefore thinking people always mean exactly what they say.
- difficulties interpreting verbal and non-verbal language like gestures, facial expressions or tone of voice
- difficulties forming friendships
- having intense and highly focused interests
- finding any changes in routine difficult
- over or under sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, colours, temperature or pain

The purpose of the assessment is to find out if the difficulties your child is having meet the criteria for an ASD diagnosis or if this can be explained by something else.

What happens on the day?

You and your child will be seen by one or two members of the team. They will ask you about your child's early history and development as well as brief details about your own health and family history. These details are helpful in making a decision as to whether your child may have ASD. This part of the assessment will last for approximately one and a half hours.

One or two clinicians will spend some time with your child to complete the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The ADOS is an assessment tool which uses structured and semi structured tasks. This part of the assessment is usually on a different day to the parental interview and lasts approximately one hour.

What we also do

We also look at Questionnaires about your child's life at home and at school. These will be collected before the assessment appointment. We will also collect information from your child's school to consider their strengths and difficulties in the school environment.

Where is the appointment?

The appointment is based at 42 York street in Twickenham.

Do I need to bring anything to the appointment?

Please bring any other relevant reports you think could be useful. For example assessments from Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists or Speech and Language Therapists. If you have your child's personal child Health record (red book) or any school reports then please also bring these along.