

# Autism Spectrum Disorder Evaluation



**Social interactions and communication are central to a child's cognitive, emotional, and behavioural development. Our ability to effectively communicate, and interpret social cues and situations is essential to our ability to navigate the world around us.**

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a broad range of conditions characterised by social, communication and behavioural challenges. The severity of ASD is on a spectrum, which means that it affects each child differently and to varying degrees.

The ASD evaluation consists of two main components: a cognitive abilities assessment, and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). The cognitive abilities assessment evaluates a child's thinking, reasoning, memory, and processing. While the ADOS is considered the gold standard assessment instrument used to help inform the diagnosis of ASD, the correct intervention, a treatment plan, and educational placement. It is an activity-based assessment which includes structured and semi-structured assessment of communication, social interaction, repetitive behaviour, and play. The assessment is administered by a trained clinician and an observer.

