WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If ASD Diagnosis has been given we place great importance on the support offered following your diagnosis. Support options include:

- Follow up appointment to discuss this diagnosis and what it means for you or your child
- To discuss useful support books to read
- Share information about the NAS
- Early Bird / Early Bird Plus
- Therapy groups
- Tailored 1:1 therapy
- Home support
- Nursery and school support
- Advice and reviews

If a diagnosis isn't given, the reasons will be fully explained and you will have time for any questions. A review may be indicated. Full access to all therapy provisions will continue.

CONTACT US

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london speech therapy
Psychology & Allied Services

ADOS INFO FOR PARENTS

london speech therapy
Psychology & Allied Services

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain what the ADOS is, why you or your child may have been referred for an ADOS assessment, and what you can expect from an ADOS assessment session. If you have any further questions about the ADOS after reading this leaflet, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contact information detailed at the bottom.

ADOS - what is it?

ADOS stands for Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule. It is a standardised, diagnostic tool used to assess for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in individuals from 12 months into adulthood. The ADOS can be used across all developmental and language levels. The ADOS is considered a 'gold standard' test when assessing for Autism.

The ADOS would be carried out by a professional who has appropriate experience in working with autistic individuals and who is trained in using the ADOS.

WHY MIGHT I OR MY CHILD BE REFERRED FOR AN ASSESSMENT USING THE ADOS?

You or your child may be referred for an ADOS assessment if challenges have been identified in the areas of communication, social interaction, (play), repetitive and restricted behaviours.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING AN ADOS ASSESSMENT SESSION?

When you arrive for your assessment, you will be met by the assessors.
Within London Speech Therapy, this will either be Polly Gibson (SLT and ASD service lead), Giulia Maccarini (Counselling Psychologist) and / or Mairead Donnelly (SLT and director at LST). You will be shown to the assessment room and the ADOS will be explained to you. The ADOS will then be carried out.

The assessing clinians will then take time to go through the assessment and score jointly to ensure reliability of scores given. A follow up to feedback will be offered. We may be able to give a summary on the day with a follow up arranged for 1 – 2 weeks later, or more time may be needed and only the follow up offered. A follow up observation / additional school or nursery information may be required. If this is the case, this will be discussed with you.

The ADOS may be carried out by a Psychologist, a speech and Language Therapist and / or a Paediatrician. It is considered best practise for the ADOS to be carried out as part of a multidisciplinary team, whereby you have two clinicians from two different professional backgrounds (e.g. a Psychologist and a Speech and Language Therapist).

The ADOS comprises of a number of semi-structured tasks, assessing communication, social interaction, play and restricted and repetitive behaviours. Various activities are presented in order to elicit behaviours that are directly related to ASD. Observations are made and then codes are given that enable the test user to inform diagnosis and future therapeutic planning. The clinician will make best efforts to put the individual at ease throughout the assessment session, whilst ensuring all tasks are carried out in order to provide the most robust diagnostic conclusion.

Depending on the age and language level of the child will determine which module of the ADOS is used. For younger children or children with less language, the assessment will appear more play based. Each activity however has a specific purpose, even if it appears to be informal and less structured. Throughout the assessment, the test user will be looking for very specific responses and will carry tasks out in a specific way, in order to elicit certain behaviours.