



Eligibility Fact Sheet- Division of Autism Spectrum Services

In order to be eligible for supports and services from the Division of Autism Spectrum Services at the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, a person must have:

1. Legal Residency in the State of Connecticut
2. A **PRIMARY** diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (an evaluation for Autism Spectrum Disorder **must include** a standardized diagnostic instrument such as the Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule (ADOS), Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS), or Gilliam Autism Rating Scales (GARS). Evaluations that do not include standardized diagnostic instruments will not serve to qualify individuals for DDS service).
3. A full scale IQ of 70* or higher (a diagnosis of intellectual ability **must include** tests such as the Wechsler or Stanford-Binet which assess the applicant's intellectual/cognitive ability and generate IQ scores. Psychological testing must indicate current (within 3 years) cognitive/IQ results).
*For children ages 3-7 where a valid IQ cannot be determined, eligibility will be based upon a diagnosis of an ASD and developmental delays.
4. Impairment in at least **three** areas of adaptive functioning (To be eligible for DDS Division of Autism Spectrum Services, impairment in adaptive functioning must be determined by Adaptive Skills Testing. **Adaptive Skills** tests such as tests Vineland and Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC) evaluate the applicant's capability with daily activities such as dressing, grooming, and social skills).
5. Live in either their own home or their family home (individuals living in residential or school settings are not eligible for the autism waiver services).
6. Medicaid Eligibility (Applications will not be processed for individuals 18 years and older unless there is a copy of the Medicaid Card.)
7. Impairment prior to age 22 years
8. Impairment expected to continue indefinitely (chronic)



Autism Spectrum Disorder

<p>Definition- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is defined by persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction as well as restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities. For the purposes of this waiver an individual must meet the criteria for ASD based on the 5th version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5.)</p>	<p>What Does This Mean? In the social communication area having ASD means a person may have trouble with certain social skills such as: back and forth conversation, non-verbal communication, developing, maintaining or sustaining friendships. In the area of behavior a person with ASD might have stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, insistence on sameness, highly restricted and fixated interests and/or hypo or hyper sensitivity to sensory input.</p>
<p>What tests do I need? Determination will be established through a review of personal, clinical, and educational records. Records need to indicate a diagnosis of an ASD made through Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluation(s) that clearly outline the justifications for the differential diagnosis.</p> <p>*For children ages 3 -8 a valid IQ cannot be determined. Eligibility for these children will be based upon a diagnosis of ASD and developmental delays.</p>	<p>Where can I get tested and who can test me? You can get tested for ASD at a clinic, hospital or school. The evaluation is conducted by a professional who through education, training and/or certification is qualified to both conduct a diagnostic evaluation and to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder. The evaluator should have a specialty in the age range of the individual and have training, experience and a competency in diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders. This might include a psychiatrist, psychologist, neurologist, developmental pediatricians, certified school psychologist, or any other appropriately trained professional with expertise in this area.</p>

What Happens If I Am Determined Eligible?

The DDS Autism Division currently has an extensive waiting list for services. Once eligibility is determined, you will be placed on the DDS Autism Division wait list. Eligibility for services does not assure that requests for services can be met immediately. Services of the Department of Developmental Services are provided on a priority basis and within available appropriations.

What If I Am Found Ineligible?

If a decision of ineligibility is made, the reasons for this decision will be listed in the notification letter. Also included will be a form for you to send in if you decide to request a hearing on the finding of ineligibility. You may submit the form within 60 days of receiving the eligibility determination.

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A Good Autism Evaluation: What you need to know!

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.

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:

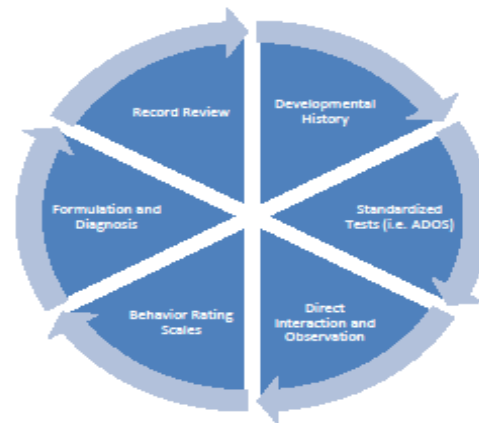
- Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrician,
- Licensed Psychologist,
- Psychiatrist
- Neurologist

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

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!

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