Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
Information for parents

Why is my child having this assessment?

The person leading your child’s assessment has gathered information that suggests your child may have Autism Spectrum Disorder, however findings from the initial assessment are not entirely clear.

In order for them to come to a conclusion, they have asked for your child to have an additional assessment to give them some further information that will help them to make a decision.

This assessment gives professionals a set way of looking at specific behaviours associated with the Autism Spectrum.

What will happen at the assessment?

The assessment takes place at the City of Coventry Health Centre. There are usually two professionals in the room; one will carry out the assessment, the other will watch and take notes.

There are four different levels of the assessment appropriate to your child’s age and language level. Depending on the level there will be different activities to do such as playing with toys, puzzles, describing pictures. For older children and teens there will be some discussion about emotions and future plans.

Your child will not be expected to read or write anything. There is no right or wrong; it gives us a chance to look at how your child interacts with others in different situations and their understanding of, and response to other people.

What happens after the assessment?

We will have to score what we have seen. This takes some time and it needs to be looked at with all of the other information collected by the person who asked for the assessment. This means that we won’t be able to give you any feedback on the day of the ADOS.

You will have a follow up appointment to discuss the overall findings. This is for parents only but your child can attend if you want them to be part of the discussions.

If you have any other questions regarding this assessment please contact the team:

Child and Family Neurodevelopmental Service
Paybody Unit, City of Coventry Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry CV1 4FS.
Tel: 024 7696 1226