

Autism Assessment Team
Child Development Centre
Wing F
Harrogate District Hospital
HG2 7SX
Tel: 01423 557471
hdft.autism1@nhs.net

Autism Assessment Parent Interview

What to expect

The Parent Interview is structured around the ICD11 (International Classification of Diseases 11) criteria for autism. The clinician will review available information e.g. referral form/questionnaires returned before the meeting. They will provide information about record sharing and data protection.

The interview can take around 2 hours. If you would like to discuss any possible adaptations/considerations with regards to the interview, please get in touch on the above number. We appreciate that the interview is lengthy and the content can be emotional. Should you need a break at any point during the interview, the clinician will happily accommodate this.

If only one parent is present, and both have Parental Responsibility, the clinician will ask about the views of the parent not present, and whether these align with the parent present. If parents are separated and views differ significantly, a separate parent interview may be needed, or can be requested. Please let us know in advance if this may be the case.

Social, medical and personal history

- The clinician will ask information about your child's current health/wellness, including any medication, hearing, vision.
- They will ask about any other professionals currently involved in your child's care, for example, Physiotherapy, Early Help, Social Care.
- They will ask about your child's current strengths/what's going well and when you first noticed differences in your child's development.
- They will establish who your child currently lives with, and the contact arrangements if parents/carers are separated.

You matter most

- They will ask about your child's current educational setting/previous provision.
- The clinician will ask questions about your child's early history including:
 - Pregnancy and birth history
 - Early developmental milestones
 - Any differences noted early on in your child's development.

It can be helpful to refresh your memory about early history, for example, having access to your child's 'red book'. Please do not worry if you do not recall specific dates or details.

- The clinician will ask about any family history of any neurodevelopmental differences, such as autism, dyslexia, ADHD, OCD, learning difficulties, or any mental health difficulties in the family.
- They will also ask about any significant life events, such as house moves, conflicts (including any domestic abuse), bereavements etc.

Autism specific questions

The clinician will then ask a range of questions about your child, as a toddler and at their current age, with regards to the following areas:

- Non-verbal communication (eye contact, gesture, facial expression)
- Language and speech
- Conversation
- Social understanding and behaviour
- Emotional awareness
- Showing/sharing
- Peer relationships
- Routine/response to change
- Movements and mannerisms
- Interests
- Sensory preferences and/or aversions

It is really helpful to provide specific examples that you/others have observed about your child.

The clinician will guide you through the questions and may move the interview along once enough information is gathered. They will ensure that you have time to talk about any worries or concerns.

Please do feel free to ask questions at any point.

We can be contacted by email: hdf.t.autism1@nhs.net.

Kind regards,

The Autism Assessment Team