



Diagnostic Autism Assessments for children and young people

In response to the high demand for autism assessments in and around Bristol, we are excited to offer in-depth diagnostic autism assessments, which follow NICE guidelines, and are psychotherapeutically informed.

What to expect

To start the process	We will arrange an initial consultation via phone or online to talk through your observations and reasons for wondering if your child may be autistic. The outcome of this may be a recommendation to proceed with an assessment or not and/or to signpost you to other relevant services. We do not charge for the initial consultation.
If you proceed with assessment	We will ask you, and your child's educational placement, to complete some information gathering forms - to get a picture of how your child is in their home and educational settings.
The assessment process	<p>We will meet parents/carers to take a developmental history of your child using a structured interview called an Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI-R). This can take around 2 to 3 hours. We will also meet your child for a play-based interview using an assessment tool is called an Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). This lasts up to an hour. If needed, we will also schedule a meeting with our Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist.</p> <p>The assessment will include an observation of your child at their educational setting. This lasts around an hour and includes seeing your child in both a structured session and through a transition to unstructured time.</p>

Following these steps, the team will meet to discuss all the information gathered and create a written report to provide the outcome of the assessment, summarise the findings, and suggest resources and adaptations for your child.

We view autism from a standpoint of human diversity, rather than pathologically or as a disorder, and see assessment as a valuable tool to gain greater knowledge and understanding.

The assessment report

The report will be shared with you during a meeting with parents/carers and young person. Time is given for processing and thinking about what the impact of the report may be. This is spread over two separate sessions of 50 minutes each. Depending on their age, the child may or may not be present.

Who will my child be seeing?

Our highly trained multi-disciplinary autism assessment team includes a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and a Senior Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, both with extensive experience with autistic children and young people and previous work in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Other specialist clinicians from the team may also be involved.

How much will it cost?

The total fee is £2370. The package includes: screening consultation, information gathering and observation at the child's educational setting, assessment (using ADOS and ADI-R assessment tools), psychiatric consultation, detailed report and two feedback sessions to explore the outcome of the assessment. We also offer an option for extended therapeutic support at the end of the diagnostic process. This will be subject to a further fee and dependant on service availability and the individual needs of the child and family.

What next?

For more information, or to make a referral, please phone 01179424510 or email rowena.mahmud@bridgefoundation.org.uk



info@bridgefoundation.org.uk



www.bridgefoundation.org.uk

Please note:

The demand for this service is likely to exceed the number of assessments we are able to offer, and so from time to time we are likely to close the waiting list. We will indicate on our website both when the waiting list is closed and when it reopens.

Sessions take place at

The Bridge Foundation, 12 Sydenham Road, Cotham, Bristol BS6 5SH