

What can you expect from an autism assessment for young children (0-6 years)?

Why have your child assessed for autism?

By having your child assessed for autism, you can determine whether your child needs help, and if so what kind of help. If it turns out that your child has autism, you can manage your expectations. You can also view the diagnosis as a form of recognition and/or explanation.

Who does the autism assessment?

A specialised 'Jonge Kind Team' does the autism assessment. This team consists of different experts:

- Paediatrician/child and adolescent psychiatrist;
- Psychologist/ remedial educationalist.

They are all experienced in performing assessments on young children. During the assessment, you will have a fixed contact person.

An assessment consists of at least:

- a conversation about the concerns you have about your child;
- a conversation about your child's development from pregnancy to now;
- observing the interaction between you and your child;
- observing your child in a particular environment or situation (1 or multiple times). For example, during the conversations, a play moment, at daycare/school and/or at home;
- requesting information from the daycare, preschool or school;
- examining sensory processing;
- examining the child's developmental level;
- discussing other problems and possible explanations for them;
- a recommendation to repeat the assessment after 1-3 years.

During the conversations, attention is paid to:

- What would you like help with/for?
- Matching your pace as a parent, and what you may need or are able to handle at that moment.
- How are you doing as a parent or parents?



- Setting up extra support if parenting is (too) demanding.
- What are your and your child's strengths?
- Are there others (friends/family) who can help you?

What does the assessment provide?

The assessment leads to a good description of your child. It reveals your child's strengths and challenges. This description goes beyond merely stating whether your child has autism or not.