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The ADOS session

ADOS stands for Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule. ADOS is an assessment tool used to evaluate communication, social interaction and play for children who might have Autism.

What happens when we arrive?

On arriving, the clinician will meet you in the waiting room and introduce herself. It is preferable for the assessment that parents and carers are not in the same room as the young person and the clinician will suggest this sensitively. If it is apparent that separating may cause distress, the adult is able to join. In these situations, we ask that the adult observe without participating in the discussions and activities as far as is possible.

Where does it take place?

The young person will join the clinician in one of the clinic rooms upstairs while the adult waits in the waiting room downstairs. Clinic rooms are spacious and quiet with comfortable sofas and toys are available if needed.

How long is the session?

The session typically lasts between 40 and 60 minutes.

What happens during the session?

The assessor/s will interact with your child through standard activities and tasks, like playing with toys, engaging in conversation or following simple instructions. The assessor/s will observe your child's behaviour, communication skills and social interactions. The assessment is tailored to your child's age and developmental level.

What do the ADOS scores mean?

The ADOS produces scores and observations in areas such as communication, social interaction and repetitive behaviours. Scores and observations are discussed with the multi-disciplinary team to reach an outcome as to whether the young person meets the criteria for a diagnosis of autism.