

Questions to support your 'Right to choose' request from your GP for a Preschool Neurodevelopmental (ND) Autism Assessment

Support for a child/young person should be provided throughout Leeds without a formal diagnosis. More information about this can be found on the **Neurodiversity Information Hub website** www.mindmate.org.uk/nd/.

However, there are times where it is appropriate to formally assess a child/young person. A specific diagnosis can be important to help other people; professionals, friends and family understand your child/young person's strengths and challenges. It is also invaluable for your child/young person to understand their own strengths and differences to form their own identity as they develop and grow. This in turn can help your child to develop positive mental health.

Preschool Neurodevelopmental (ND) Autism Assessment

If you are concerned about your child and would like to access the '**Right to Choose**' for a **preschool-aged autism assessment please talk to your GP**. Your GP will have a list of providers who you can access.

If you are able, complete the questionnaire below, either on your own or with your child's setting/nursery/school, to provide information about your child's skills within the home and setting. Take this completed information to your GP appointment to support your referral request.

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| 1. | <p>What are your child's strengths? What do they like doing? What are they good at?</p> |
| 2. | <p>How does your child understand the world around them? Do they understand routines? Do they respond to instructions? Do they understand non-verbal cues such as gesture? Do they understand danger?</p> |
| 3. | <p>How does your child interact with other adults and children? Do they show interest in and respond to others? Do they have friends, understand feelings, take turn and share, play interactively?</p> |
| 4. | <p>How does your child communicate with you and other people? Do they use words / non-verbal cues such as gestures? E.g. pull you by the hand, use waving? Do they understand / use facial expression / eye-contact to communicate? Do they use words? Can they get frustrated when they can't get their message across – what does this look like?</p> |

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| 5. | <p>If your child uses words, how do they use them? e.g. to make comments / label things / get their needs met or in a two-way conversation. Do they use learnt phrases or repeat what people say? Are they able to combine gestures and words to get their message across?</p> |
| 6. | <p>What does your child play with? How do they play with it? Is it repetitive, i.e. the same play lots and lots of times? Do they explore toys through banging, looking closely at toys or mouthing them? Are they able to play with a variety of toys or focus just on one activity?</p> |
| 7. | <p>Is your child interested in certain aspects of toys/objects? e.g. smell / feel / taste / looking at it in unusual ways? Does your child avoid / react negatively to certain activities / toys?</p> |
| 8. | <p>How does your child cope with changes to routine and unusual events? e.g. celebrations / festivals / birthdays?</p> |
| 9. | <p>Does your child need certain routines consistently? e.g. walking around the room in a specific way, having to have or hold a particular object / toy</p> |
| 10. | <p>Does your child have any repetitive movements? e.g. whole body / finger / hand movements</p> |
| 11. | <p>Are there any strategies that you have found helps your child? e.g. calming activities / places they enjoy, use of objects / pictures, having routines?</p> |
| 12. | <p>Are there any other professionals involved in your child's care? e.g. Paediatrician, Speech and Language Therapy, nursery / setting staff</p> |