

# Appointments

Appointments will be offered where possible on a day and time that suits you.

We want to provide you with the best possible service.

Missed appointments result in a loss of clinical time and longer waiting lists for patients.

## Failure to attend

If you fail to attend any appointment you may be discharged on the day of the missed appointment and a letter sent to your child's Community Paediatrician.

## Cancellation of appointment

If you have to cancel an appointment please give the service as much notice as is possible.

# How to find us

## The Oaks Building



From Armagh City  
Take the first  
entrance to St  
Luke's

Then take the  
third entrance on  
your right and the  
Oaks is the  
second building  
on the left

Autism Services  
The Oaks  
Longstone Hospital Site  
Mullinure Lane  
Armagh  
BT61 7PR  
Tel 028 37 566777

[Autism.services@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Autism.services@southerntrust.hscni.net)



# Autism Assessment Journey

## Why has my child been referred?

Your child has been referred to The Autism Service to be assessed for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This is because there are concerns about aspects of his/her social interaction, communication and behaviours.

**Please see the link below for more information on the Autism Assessment process.**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5mZPaiqnjg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5mZPaiqnjg)

If you are a smart phone user you can scan the QR code for more information on the Autism Assessment Process



## What happens next?

To determine whether or not your child has ASD, the multidisciplinary team need to gather as much information about your child as they can, to build up a picture of how your child presents in different environments.

- The first thing that will happen is that you will be offered an appointment to discuss your concerns about your child and their developmental history. This appointment is just for parents/carers and your child will not be asked to attend.
- Your child will be observed by a practitioner from the Autism Team. For younger children this is usually completed at school/home. Older children are usually asked to attend for a clinic assessment in the first instance. If required, more than one type of observation will be completed.
- Information and reports will be gathered from health and education professionals who know your child. A school questionnaire will be sent to your child's school to request information from them.
- The multidisciplinary team will review all the information and observations which have been completed and decide whether or not your child's presentation meets the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Feedback will be provided to you about the outcome of your child's assessment. This may be done in person, following a clinical observation, or over the phone.

## Which professionals will be involved in the assessment?

The Multidisciplinary team will be made up of at least two professionals and may include an Autism Senior Practitioner, a Speech & Language Therapist, a Community Paediatrician or a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.

## What happens after the assessment is completed?

If your child is not given a diagnosis of ASD, they will be discharged back to their Community Paediatrician.

If your child is diagnosed with ASD, your child will be referred on to the Intervention Team for further follow up and support, as required.

There are occasions when the multidisciplinary team decide that a child needs further time to develop before a decision can be made. In this case, your child's progress will be monitored.

