

Parents, family members, and caregivers are usually the first to notice the delay of developmental [milestones](#) in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Despite stereotyped behaviors, some individuals with ASD can go undiagnosed until later in life when the demands of school or work reveal skill deficits.

If you suspect your child may have autism, the first step is talking to your family doctor. Although they can't make the diagnosis themselves, they can connect you with a specialist that can refer you to the [British Columbia Autism Assessment Network \(BCAAN\)](#) for assessment.

### How is ASD diagnosed?

An ASD diagnosis depends on the number and pattern of typical characteristics, and the observation of specific behaviours and abilities. It takes a multidisciplinary team of qualified autism specialists to make a clinical diagnosis. The team typically includes: a pediatrician, a registered psychologist, a psychiatrist, and a speech-language pathologist. Many different measures and screening tools are used in the process to ensure accuracy.

Wait times for BCAAN's publicly funded teams vary from region to region. To find out more about assessments and what the current wait time is please visit:

<http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-autism-assessment-network>

### Private Assessments

Depending on wait times in your region a private assessment may be an option to consider. It is important to make sure the assessment meets the criteria set out in the [Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Young Children with ASD in BC](#). Ministry of Children and Family Development require specific assessment information to access their service and Autism Funding, please contact BC Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN) at some extended

<http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-autism-assessment-network> for details.

Some extended medical plans cover psychologists services, please check with your provider.

## Talk To Us

Have a question? Looking for further information? Our friendly and knowledgeable Information Officers provide personalized support through email, phone, and in-person.

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