

# Real Life Experiences: Parent Perspectives on the Day of Diagnosis and Beyond

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# Meet Our Parent Panel & Psychologists!

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# The Start of the Diagnostic Journey

I suspect my child has Autism.

My child has been referred for an Autism evaluation.

What should I expect?

I am referring a patient for an Autism evaluation.

What should I know? What should the family expect?

# Goals and Learning Objectives

- Clinician Perspectives via Power Point: What *should* an Autism evaluation typically look like? What *should* parents expect before and during the evaluation?
- Parent Perspectives via Parent Panel: What is it really like to go through an Autism evaluation? What was helpful? What can be improved? What should parents know before the evaluation?

# Goals and Learning Objectives

1

Participants will learn what is commonly involved in the autism evaluation process

2

Participants will gain insight into what it is like as a parent to go through the autism diagnostic process

3

Participants will identify what is helpful and harmful to parents during and after the diagnostic process

# Autism Evaluation: What to Expect Before Your Appointment

Call to Schedule

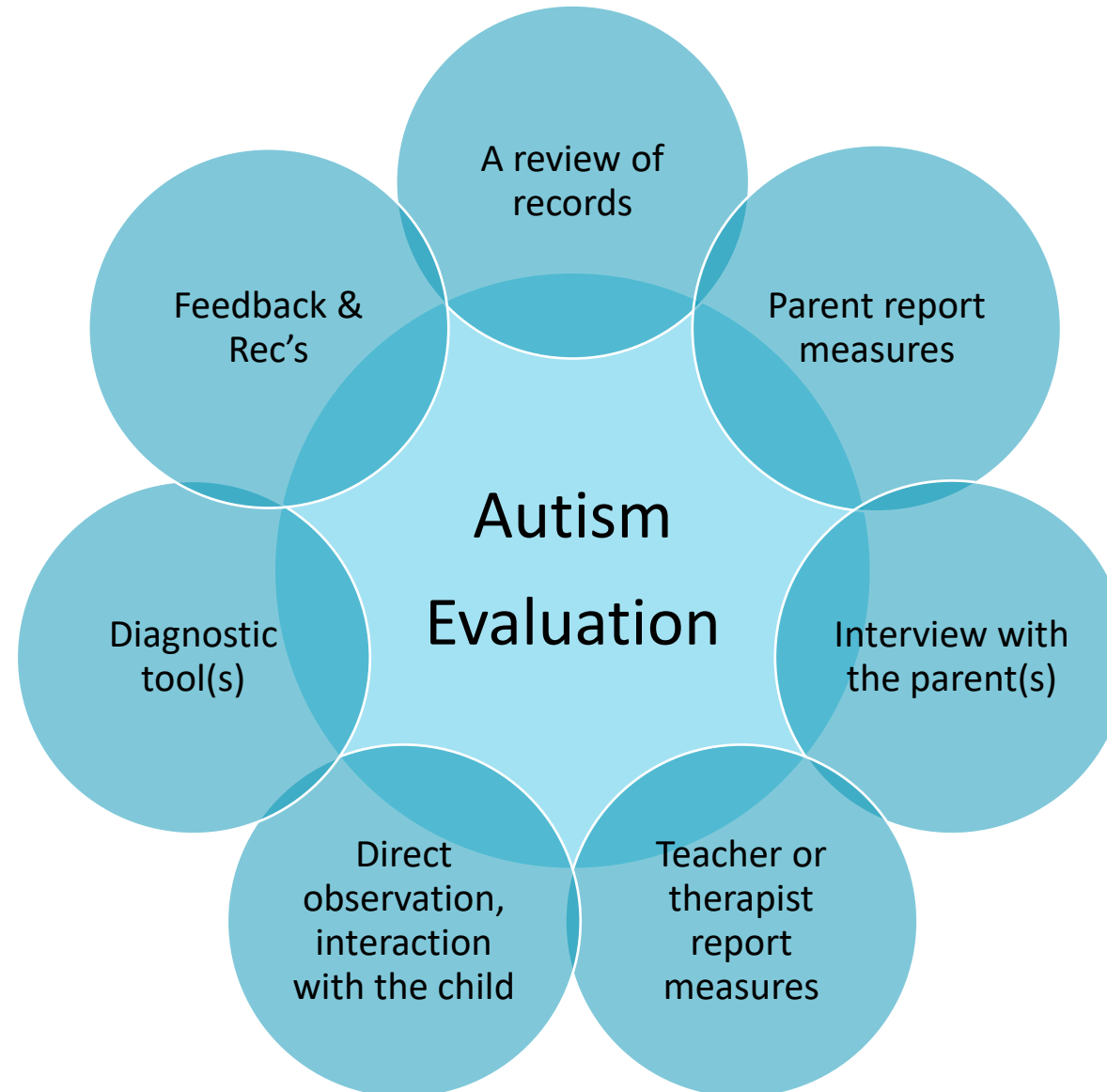
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graph TD; A[Call to Schedule] --> B[Wait Lists: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Truth]; B --> C[Intake Questions]; C --> D[Complete Parent/Teacher Forms];
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Wait Lists: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Truth

Intake Questions

Complete Parent/Teacher Forms

# Autism Evaluation: What You Should Expect During Your Appointment



# Autism Diagnostic Assessment: Interactions with Your Child

- A clinician should document observations of your child's interactions with you and with the clinician.
- A clinician should interact directly with your child.
- These observations and interactions provide the clinician the opportunity to observe the behaviors that are important to see when determining if a child has Autism:
  - Communication
  - Social Interaction
  - Play



# Autism Diagnostic Assessment: Interactions with Your Child

- In addition to informal interactions, the clinician should also use a diagnostic tool to further evaluate the signs and symptoms of Autism. This should include one or more of the following:
  - Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2)
  - Childhood Autism Rating Scale, Second Edition (CARS-2)
  - Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS) Parent report
  - Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS)
  - Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS), Parent Report
  - Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ), Parent Report

# Evaluation Findings and Recommendations

- Results of the evaluation, including whether your child qualifies for an Autism diagnosis, will be discussed with you.
- Some clinics provide same-day feedback while others schedule a follow-up appointment.
- Feedback should include:
  - Developmental recommendations
  - Educational recommendations
  - Autism-specific recommendations
  - Medical needs/follow-up care (feeding, sleeping, genetics)
- A comprehensive evaluation report should be mailed within 1 month of your appointment.

# Diagnostic Considerations

Autism should never be diagnosed based on one source of information, one symptom, or due to the results of one diagnostic tool in isolation (e.g., ADOS-2).

Autism diagnoses should be provided based on the findings from a comprehensive evaluation described today.



Welcome Parent  
Panel!