

# Autism Evaluation Team

**C**hildren's Care Hospital & School has a diverse team of trained professionals who have specialized training in administering comprehensive evaluations to diagnose autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

Our Autism Evaluation team is comprised of a pediatric psychiatrist, school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and an audiologist, who have many combined years of experience in assessing children with autism spectrum disorders.

Our multidisciplinary team provides an educational, as well as medical diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders.

The Autism team at Children Care stays current with the latest assessment, diagnosis, and research based interventions by participating in local and national workshops, conventions, and training.

## Team Evaluation Process

Prior to your evaluation, you will release medical and educational information to our facility for review by team members. You and your child's school or daycare staff will be required to fill out several forms and rating scales.

You will be assigned a case manager to assist you and other professionals who work with your child to complete all pre-clinic information. On the day of the evaluation, your child will have a full audiology assessment. Your child will participate in several other tests to assess communication, socialization, play with objects and people, sensory processing, and adaptive skills. You and any school staff or other professionals you chose to bring with you will be interviewed extensively about your child's skills and abilities. You will meet with our pediatric psychiatrist to discuss medical issues related to diagnosis.

**Where Is It Conducted?** All ASD evaluations take place at our main campus located at 2501 W. 26th Street in Sioux Falls.



*The team is led by pediatric psychiatrist Dr. David Ermer.*

**How long does it take?** The average time for full multi-disciplinary team evaluation is 4 hours. This time may vary depending on your child's age and needs. We ask that you plan accordingly for needs regarding work or care of other children as your full attention and participation as a parent is required during the evaluation.

**How is it paid for?** Because we provide both medical and educational diagnoses, medical insurance may be accessed to request and pay for the evaluation. We require a physician prescription and proof of insurance. In some cases, school districts request and pay for this evaluation. Opportunities to discuss funding and payment are offered prior to the evaluation through our outpatient rehabilitation insurance specialists.

**What happens next?** An interpretation of results is provided at the end of the evaluation. A brief summary is given to all parents and team members present the day of the evaluation. If an ASD diagnosis is made, information is shared on parent support, resources, and references for ASDs. A full comprehensive report with recommendations will be compiled and mailed approximately 2 weeks after the evaluation. A release of information signed at the time of interpretation will allow our team to share the results with other physicians, schools, or providers who serve your child. Your case manager will follow-up with you and be a resource to you following the completion of the evaluation.



*A staff psychologist provides standardized testing.*



*Our audiologist rules out hearing issues in the evaluation process.*



*The Autism Evaluation Team, (back L to R): pediatric psychiatrist David Ermer, MD; audiologist Paul Brueggeman, Au.D.; (front L to R) intake specialist Carla Goeden; school psychologist Darcie Knight, Ed.S.; speech-language pathologist Megan Wiessner, MA, CCC-SLP; and occupational therapist Julie Ermer, MS, OTR/L.*

**Call (605) 782-2428 for appointment or details. (Toll-free, 800-584-9294, Ext. 4428.)**



**CHILDREN'S CARE**  
REHABILITATION CENTER

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