

**COMPLEX
COMMUNICATION
DIAGNOSTIC
SERVICE**

[Assessment Process]

**Information
For
Parents**

INTRODUCTION

Your Child has been referred to the Complex Communication Diagnostic Service (CCDS) because of concern that your child has Social Communication difficulties. The CCDS brings together a multidisciplinary team of professionals, who are experienced in the diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other communication difficulties, e.g. Language Disorder.

ASD is a developmental disorder that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around them. The core difficulties are with social interaction, communication and imagination i.e. repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviour, interests and activities. The degree of these difficulties can vary from one child to another, hence the common use of the term Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING?

- Written acknowledgement will be sent to you and you will be informed about the assessment process.
- Your consent will be requested for the team to seek further information from nursery, school and other professionals involved in your child's care.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Community Paediatrician, a Speech and Language Therapist or a Psychologist may have already seen your child. Their assessments will be a vital contribution to the process of establishing a diagnosis.

Assessment takes place over a period of time and in different settings e.g. clinic, school, at home etc. Appropriate intervention will be recommended as an ongoing process and will not be left until the diagnosis is established.

The core components of the assessment are:

- A paediatric and developmental assessment. Certain tests may be requested and referrals made to other professionals.
- A detailed semi-structured interview, this will be carried out by a Senior Community Paediatrician.

An observation session, based on the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). This will be carried out by a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist or a Specialist Psychologist from CAMHS Tier 2 in the nursery/school, Phoenix Centre or other clinics. In some cases it may be considered useful to have the observation done using a 1-way mirror so that parents and other team members can observe the session as well.

The interview and observation complement each other to give a more accurate assessment of your child's difficulties.

- A Feedback session with you will then take place to explain the assessment findings and diagnosis. Usually, a minimum of 2 members of the CCDS team will be at these meetings and representatives from nursery/school and the Family Services Worker from Burgess Autistic Trust will also be invited.
- A written report will be sent to you and with your permission, this will be shared with others if relevant.

If you have any queries, please contact your child's consultant paediatrician or any member of the CCDS team at the Phoenix Childrens Resource Centre, 40 Masons Hill, Bromley, BR2 9JG

**Tel: 020 8466 9988
020 8315 4673 (Administrator)**

Your Opinion Matters

We welcome your views on the services we provide. If you would like to make a comment, suggestion or complaint, please speak to the relevant manager or service lead, or contact the Patient Advice & Liaison Service at the address below or by calling 020 8315 8880.

About Bromley Healthcare

Bromley Healthcare is a community health care provider, providing a wide range of services to people of all ages. From health visiting to district nursing, school nurses to specialist nurses, our nursing services help new parents to care for new born children and older people to continue living at home through care and support. In addition to this broad range of nursing services we also have a wide range of therapy services for adults and children. This includes speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Global House,
10 Station Approach,
Hayes,
Kent BR2 7EH

contact@bromleyhealthcare-cic.nhs.uk