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AUTISM ASSESSMENT REFERRAL GUIDE

CLEAR, DETAILED, AND SUPPORTIVE GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONALS REFERRING CHILDREN TO OUR AUTISM ASSESSMENT SERVICES.

SEE POTENTIAL, JOIN THE CHANGE

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WELCOME

WELCOME TO CAUDWELL CHILDREN

At Caudwell Children, we specialise in providing high-quality, NICE-compliant autism assessments designed to meet the unique needs of every child and their family. Our service is trusted by schools, healthcare providers, and other professionals across the UK.

Here's why professionals choose to refer to us:

NICE-Compliant and CQC Regulated: Our assessments meet the gold standard set by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), ensuring quality and credibility. We are also regulated by the Care Quality Commission and rated as Good in all areas.

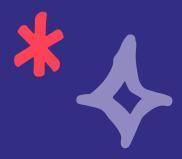
Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary: Delivered by a team of experienced Clinical Psychologists, Paediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, and Specialist Nurses, with additional input from Occupational Therapists.

No Unnecessary Waiting: Referrals and applications are processed efficiently, allowing families to access assessments for their children promptly and without unnecessary delays which are often encountered in other services with long waiting lists.

Accessible: Eligible families can access charity-funded assessments with a contribution of £500, while those not meeting the criteria can self-fund. Instalment plans are available for both options, with full payment required before the assessment day.

Family-Focused: We provide ongoing support and resources, including 12 months of tailored family support post-assessment.

Neurodiversity-affirmative: We take a strengths-based approach tailored to each individual child, recognising their unique strengths and talents alongside any areas of difficulty or development needs.





WHY US? WHY REFER TO CAUDWELL CHILDREN?

A comprehensive assessment from a trusted provider like Caudwell Children offers:

Clarity: Evidence-based insights into the child's strengths and support needs.

- **Recognition:** Assessment outcomes and diagnoses that are accepted by schools, the NHS, and other agencies, enabling families to access other vital support services.
- * Actionable Recommendations: Clear, practical steps for supporting the child in education and daily life.
- Family Support: 12 months of support post-assessment, regardless of the outcome; this includes sharing of resources and attendance at family workshops to help families navigate the next steps and implement the recommendations.



HOW TO START

HOW TO START THE REFERRAL PROCESS

Follow these steps to refer a child for an autism assessment:

Step 1: Confirm the Child Meets Our Eligibility Criteria

Our autism assessments are available for:

- * Children aged 4-11 years.
- * Children who have not attended an autism assessment previously (unless their previous assessment report clearly indicates the need for further re-assessment or review).

Step 2: Confirm Your Role

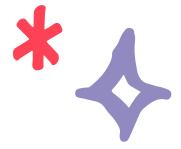
Ensure you are a healthcare, education, or social care professional who knows the child well, has observed their presentation and is in support of the need for an autism assessment. Please note you must not be a direct relation of the child.

Step 3: Provide Referral Information

To submit the referral, you must complete our online referral form at <u>www.caudwellchildren</u>. <u>com/changing-lives/how-we-can-help/autism-services/autism-assessments/make-a-</u> <u>referral</u> and ensure you have the following information ready to complete the application.

REFERRER INFORMATION:

Full Name:			
Job Title/Role:			
Agency/Organisation:			
Address:			
Contact Number:			
Professional Email Address:			
Date of Referral:			
Length of Time/Involvement with the Child/Family:			



CHILD'S INFORMATION:

Full Name:	
Date of Birt	:h:
Address:	
	NHS Number (if known)

PARENT/CARER INFORMATION:

Full Name:					
Relationship to Child:					
Email Address					
Contact Num	per:				

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Names and roles of other professionals involved (e.g. School Nurse, OT):

Contact details and length of involvement:

Next appointment date:

FUNDING OPTIONS:

Please indicate if the family will apply for financial support from Caudwell Children or if they can self-fund the assessment.

Families may be eligible for financial support if they meet the following criteria:

* Means-Tested Benefits: The family is in receipt of means-tested benefits.

 $oldsymbol{k}$ Household Income: The household income is £60,000 or less (excluding benefits).

In both cases, household savings must not exceed £16,000 to be considered. If accepted for funding, the family contribution is **£500.** For families who do not meet the funding criteria, the total cost to self-fund the assessment is **£2,500.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Provide specific examples for:

Any previous autism assessments (date, location, outcome, reason for re-assessment)

Social interactions/communication: how the child uses language and communication, any alternative communication strategies used, how they interact with family members and peers – including both verbal and nonverbal communication and interaction.

Behavioural observations: any differences or difficulties in their behaviour that has been noted, any actions or play activities they repeat.

Sensory processing: any differences noticed in their response to sensory stimuli – any aversions or things they avoid, any sensory input they seek and particularly enjoy, or any difficulties recognising internal sensory signals such as hunger, thirst, toileting needs.

Emotional regulation: how the child recognises, expresses and regulates emotions, and what support they may need in this area.

Step 4: Confirm Parent/Carer Consent

Before submitting the referral, ensure that parents/carers:

- * Confirm that the child meets our eligibility criteria, as above.
- Are aware of the location of the assessment at Caudwell International Children's Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme and potential travel requirements. They will only be required to attend the centre in person for one full day.
- Understand the funding options available and the eligibility criteria if applying for a charity-funded assessment.

STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Step 1: Referral and Application Check: Our team will verify eligibility and funding.

Step 2: Paperwork Completion: Information will be sent out to parents/carers and school for completion including a child profile, school questionnaires, and a Child Support Plan.

ASSESSMENT DAYS:

Step 3: Day One: Extended virtual interview with parents to discuss the child's developmental history, behaviour, strengths and challenges.

Step 4: Day Two: In-person assessment by various members of our Multi-Disciplinary Team at our purpose-built sensory-friendly centre.

Step 5: Outcome and Recommendations: 4-6 weeks after the assessment, families attend a feedback meeting (option for in-person or virtual) with the clinician and receive a detailed report and tailored recommendations and resources.

Step 6: Post-Assessment Support: Access to 12 months of family support, workshops, and optional therapy services.

WHY NICE GUIDELINES MATTER:

Our NICE-compliant assessments ensure:

Quality You Can Trust: Evidence-based, multidisciplinary assessments involving observational assessments (e.g. ADOS-2), comprehensive developmental histories (e.g. ADI-R) and assessment of any potential differential diagnoses/presentations.

Credibility: Results accepted by schools, healthcare providers, and other professionals.

Practical Outcomes: Clear and actionable next steps for children and families.

NEED HELP?

If you have questions or need assistance with the referral process, contact our team:

Call: 0345 300 1348

Email: family.support@caudwellchildren.com

By working together, we can help children unlock their potential and access the support they need.

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