

## Our patients matter

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust listens and responds to patients and their carers to help improve the services we deliver. If you have any comments, compliments or concerns you can speak with a member of staff or contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and Complaints Team.

Phone: **0151 471 2377**

Freephone: **0800 328 2941**

Email: [palsandcomplaints@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:palsandcomplaints@merseycare.nhs.uk)

To request this leaflet in an alternative format or language, please speak to a member of staff.

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# Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)

Information leaflet



## What is Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)?

The ADOS is one of the tools used to help identify social and communication behaviours associated with Autism.

The ADOS is a structured observation, which varies in content depending on the child's age.

With younger children, it uses a series of games and play scenarios to look at aspects of social communication.

For older children and adolescents, the assessment is more 'interview' based, but also involves looking at books, cartoons and pictures.

Most children find the ADOS enjoyable, and it provides vital information for the multi agency assessment team.

## How long does ADOS take?

It takes an hour on average, although it can be shorter.

## What does ADOS involve?

The ADOS is completed by two clinicians. One of whom will conduct the assessment and the other will observe and write notes.

If you have any questions about this part of the assessment process, you will have the opportunity to discuss it on the day.

If able to, the child or young person will come into the assessment on their own. If the parent or carer needs to come into the assessment with the child, we ask them not to contribute during the assessments and the practitioners will give you chance at the end to share any additional information.

## Is there anything else I need to know about ADOS?

After you have left the assessment, the clinicians will discuss together how your child has presented a report will be written which will outline the observations made during the ADOS2 assessment.

You will receive a copy of this and it will also be made available to the professionals on the Pathway Panel.

