ABA WORLD · A PARENT'S GUIDE

Assessments Across the Autism Journey

An overview of common evaluation types, offered as information, not a complete checklist.

1 First questions

Is there something to look into, and does my child meet criteria for autism?

Autism Screening
A quick check for red flags (e.g., M-CHAT-R/F).

Diagnostic Evaluation
The formal assessment that confirms a diagnosis (e.g., ADOS-2, ADI-R).

Cognitive / Developmental
How your child thinks, learns, and reaches milestones.

2 Ruling things in or out (medical)

Health checks that explain symptoms or rule out other causes.

Hearing (Audiological)
Rules out hearing loss behind speech delays.

Vision & Medical
Eye checks and a general medical or neurological review.

Genetic Testing
Optional; looks for linked genetic conditions.

3 What my child needs (therapies)

Assessments that shape day-to-day support and therapy goals.

Speech & Language
Communication, understanding, and speech.

Occupational Therapy
Daily-living skills, fine motor, and sensory needs.

Physical / Motor
Movement, strength, and coordination.

Sensory Processing
How your child responds to sound, touch, light.

Feeding & Sleep
Eating, swallowing, and sleep patterns, common areas of difficulty.

Adaptive Behavior
Independence in everyday life (e.g., Vineland).

4 Understanding behavior & skills

The behavior-analytic assessments that guide teaching and support plans.

Functional Behavior (FBA)
Why a behavior happens, so support actually fits.

Skills Assessment
Current language and learning skills (e.g., VB-MAPP, ABLLS-R).

Social Skills
Interaction, play, and friendships.

5 School & the road ahead

Learning, co-occurring needs, and planning for the future.

Learning / Academic
Screens for dyslexia, dyscalculia, and learning differences.

Mental Health
Anxiety, ADHD, and other co-occurring conditions.

Transition / Vocational
Skills for adolescence, work, and adult life.

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