

How do I get started?

Contact CARES personnel by calling 512.245.4999 or e-mailing cares@txstate.edu.

Fees

The cost for our assessment services begins at \$500. A deposit is required during the intake interview phase.

Procedure

After the initial referral or phone call to CARES, the clinic director will contact the parent/guardian to explain the assessment process while gathering preliminary information. If the parent chooses to pursue CARES services, a meeting will be scheduled to provide more details, collect the deposit and distribute an assessment packet for the parent to complete. Once the packet is returned, the arena team will schedule the assessment. After the assessment is completed, the team will compile a comprehensive report of assessment findings and schedule a feedback session.



Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support



**Assessment services for children suspected
of having Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

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How are children assessed for Autism Spectrum Disorders?

Faculty and student arena assessment teams from School Psychology and Special Education use the most current and comprehensive diagnostic tests to determine an appropriate diagnosis and provide referrals for further services.

Traditional and research-supported diagnostic instruments specific to autism are administered. Individuals also may receive hearing and vision tests and speech-language assessment as well as emotional, academic, neuropsychological and motor assessment as part of this highly individualized evaluation.

What are Autism Spectrum Disorders?

Autism is a neurological disorder affecting about one in 150 U.S. children. Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are generally pre sent by the age of 3 and include deficits in social interaction and verbal/nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors and/or interests. Often, individuals with ASDs also have unusual responses to sensory stimulation.

An ASD can differentially affect a person's functioning, from a very mild to severe impact. Individuals with ASDs may communicate, interact, behave and learn in ways that are different from most people.

Autistic disorder is the most commonly known type of ASD, but there are others, including Asperger's syndrome and "pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified" (PDD-NOS).

Although research is rapidly progressing, no consensus exists about the causes of ASDs. Etiological theories include both genetic and environmental components. While no known cure for ASDs exists, the general agreement is that early diagnosis followed by appropriate, intensive treatment and instruction can greatly improve outcomes for most individuals with ASDs.

The Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support (CARES)

Texas State University-San Marcos College of Education established the Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support (CARES) for the purposes of conducting comprehensive evaluations for autism spectrum disorders, to provide recommendations for intervention and to conduct related research.

Who should be referred?

Individuals with an ASD might:

- Have trouble relating to others or show no interest in other people at all
- Avoid eye contact and want to be left alone most of the time
- Have trouble with or no interest in understanding other people's feelings or talking about their own feelings
- Resist being held or cuddled by others
- Appear to not hear people talking, but respond to other, less obtrusive sounds
- Repeat or echo words or phrases said to them
- Have trouble adapting when a routine changes, or react violently to such changes
- Not engage in "pretend" play
- Not point at objects to show interest
- Seem unaware of objects that are indicated by another person

