

## ASSESSMENT/DIAGNOSIS PROCESS

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#### **CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT**

If you have concerns about your child's development you can contact the public health nurse in your area, or your GP.





## APPLY FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF NEED (AON)



You can request an Assessment Of Need by filling out the form below. Once you've applied the AON should start within 3 months.

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/ 4/disability/disabilityassessment/application-forassessment-of-need-2017.pdf

The Assessment of Need (AON) identifies your child's health needs and their required health services via a service statement. An AON is not mandatory to avail of disability services.



# APPLYING TO THE CHILDREN'S DISABILITY NETWORK TEAM

(CDNT)



You can also make a referral directly to your local CDNT team. A referral can be made by a healthcare professional, or you can make the referral yourself

https://www2.hse.ie/services/disability/childrens-services/services/referral/

using the link below:

CDNT provides support for children with additional needs who are under 18. The team should include occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, and social workers. They create a personalized plan and offer parent training through various sessions and workshops.



### 4 GETTING A PRIVATE DIAGNOSIS



Parents often opt for private diagnosis due to long waiting lists. The professional qualification to carry out an autism diagnosis is a clinical psychologist /psychiatrist.

https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/
resources-directory/diagnosis/privateassessment/

### Staying Organised and Prepared

- 1. Keep a record of all correspondence in a lever arch file.
- 2. Send application forms by registered post.
- 3. Be polite but persistent in following up on appointments and assessments.
- 4. Don't be afraid to ask for help and support from parent support groups or other parents of autistic children.
- 5. Start filling out forms by writing what you know, and then keep working through it.
- 6. Keep a log of all calls and call backs.

If you would like help or support completing any application form or have queries on the process, please contact Trish Flood, Autism Support Louth&Meath's Parent Information Office on **0860787356** or <a href="mailto:trish@autismsupportlouth.com">trish@autismsupportlouth.com</a> who will help you through this process.