



Autism Identification and Supports

Medical Diagnosis

Who:

A pediatrician can make a referral for an evaluation. Typically a clinical psychologist, neurologist, or developmental pediatrician diagnose.

What Criteria:

Based on criteria outlined in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, currently in the 5th Edition, (DSM-V).

When:

As young as 18 months.

How Long:

A medical diagnosis of Autism is considered life-long.

What Services Can Be Accessed:

Services outside of the educational system including supports provided at home, after-school, or during school breaks and for respite. Services funded through health insurance or Regional Centers, etc. Services can include Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, social skills groups, etc.

When:

Outside of school hours.

Where Services Happen:

At home, a clinic, or in the community.

Educational Eligibility

Who:

An IEP team consisting of school-based professionals and parent(s)/caregiver(s).

What Criteria:

California Education Code, 5 CCR § 3030(b) (1) definition of Autism (impact on educational performance and need for special education required). Medical diagnosis alone is not sufficient.

When:

Beginning at age 3 (educational services may be provided through age 22).

How Long:

Until exited from special education; re-evaluation occurs every 3 years to determine continued eligibility.

What Services Can Be Accessed:

School-based supports may include speech therapy, specialized academic instruction, occupational therapy, or other services based on each child's unique needs.

When:

During school year and school hours.

Where Services Happen:

At school. (School-based.)



CALECSE
California Early Childhood
Special Education Network