

Autism Identification and Supports

Medically based services compared with Educationally based services



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, 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 considered. 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 unique needs.

When: During school year and school hours.

Where Services Happen: At school. (School-based.)