



Family  
Outreach

Helena — 1212 Helena Avenue, 443-7370  
Butte — 641 Sampson, 494-1242  
Bozeman — 1315 E. Main Street, 587-2477

Missoula — T-214 Fort Missoula, 549-6413  
Kalispell — 1725 MT Highway 35, 755-2425



## Referral for an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Evaluation

- Children referred for a free ASD evaluation **must be under the age of 5 years**. Per recent Montana legislation commonly known as “Brandon’s Bill”, children over the age of 5 with certain Montana-based insurance coverage **may** also be evaluated for an ASD, but these options could be subject to their insurance plan’s deductibles and co-pays. Call CDC in Missoula for more information.
- Call CDC @ 1-800-914-4779 or 406-549-6413 (Missoula or Region IV referrals) or 406-755-2425 (Kalispell) and say, “I’d like to make referral for an Autism evaluation”. Please remember parents need to be informed of, and in agreement with, the referral.
- CDC’s Administrative Assistant in either the Missoula or Kalispell office will take the initial referral information.
- The referral will be given to an Intake Coordinator/Social Worker, who will contact the family and begin the process of information gathering known as “intake”.
- If through the “intake” process the Intake Coordinator feels screening for an ASD is warranted, a Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ) or Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) will be completed.
- If the SCQ results indicate the need for further evaluation, the referral will be brought to the Eligibility Review Panel meeting to determine if the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) or an Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) should be completed. If the SCQ results do not indicate further evaluation, recommendations and referral options will be discussed with the parent by the Intake Coordinator/Social Worker.
- As indicated, the ASD evaluation will be scheduled for the next available slot. Region IV evaluations needing a full team will be scheduled for an ADOS evaluation in Missoula. Otherwise, a CARS evaluation will be scheduled in Bozeman or Helena.
- The Intake Coordinator/Social Worker acts as the Support Coordinator for the family throughout the referral and evaluation process (e.g., accessing records, information, and facilitating the evaluation and follow-up).
- All ASD evaluations result in a written report that goes to the family indicating the diagnosis of an ASD or **not**, with recommendations and referral options indicated.
- Evaluations using the ADOS are **only** completed in the Missoula or Kalispell offices at this time, and can include a medical consult with Dr. Vasquez.
- Evaluations using the CARS are completed in Missoula, Kalispell, Bozeman, and Helena.
- If requested, transportation costs for non-Medicaid families will be reimbursed at CDC’s reimbursement rate.

Please refer to the attachments that describe the ADOS evaluation and the CARS evaluation.

*Helping children with developmental delays reach their potential*