



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



# CDC's Evaluation Processes

## **FREE Developmental Evaluations and Consultations:**

1. Anyone, **with** parental permission, can make a referral on behalf of a child under the age of 6 suspected of having delays in development. To make a referral, call the Child Developmental Center (CDC) 406-549-6413 (Missoula) or 406-755-2425 (Kalispell) and have demographic information available.
2. Once the referral has been made, a Social Worker contacts the family, completes a developmental screening, gathers medical and social information, accesses applicable records, and provides the family with evaluation options. Children over the age of three may be referred to their local school district to request a free evaluation instead.
3. CDC evaluations are held in Bozeman, Helena, Missoula, and Kalispell. Evaluation teams are comprised of 1-4 pediatric clinicians, depending on the reason for the referral, and generally take 2-5 hours to complete. Following all evaluations, families are given the results and recommendations and an opportunity to discuss concerns and clarify information. A written report is sent 2-3 weeks following the evaluation.

## **FREE Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Evaluations:**

1. Children 18-24 months and older needing an evaluation to confirm or discount a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder follow a similar evaluation process as described above. However, prior to developmental screening and information gathering, the Social Worker will complete either the *Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)* or the *Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)* to determine the need for further evaluation.
2. The *Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)* is used as the standardized test when a team evaluation is needed, generally for children under the age of 3. *ADOS* evaluations are offered only in Missoula and Kalispell. A medical consultation with CDC's Medical Director can be accessed as part of an *ADOS* evaluation in Missoula.
3. The *Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)* is a test with a scale of 15 items to be observed and discussed with the primary care-giver as well as parties familiar with the child. It is generally used with children 3 or older that do not necessitate a team to discount other interfering diagnoses. *CARS* evaluations are offered in Bozeman, Helena, Missoula, and Kalispell.

**Free** Infant Evaluation Clinics, offered in Bozeman only, and **Free** NICU Follow-Up Screening Clinics, offered in Missoula only, can also be accessed by calling CDC. These clinics offer 1-2 hour developmental screening by pediatric clinicians and are intended to track the overall development of children born with remarkable beginnings (e.g., prematurity, complications at birth). Both clinics have referral criteria and are usually offered at 6 month intervals spanning 6 months to 30 months (exceptions can be made).

*Helping children with developmental delays reach their potential*