

ASDAS Referral Form Guidance:

The **ASDAS referral form** can be found: <https://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/referral-forms>

For any queries, please contact London Borough of Tower Hamlets Community Paediatrics on 0207 767 3322 (option 2) or email the ASDAS team on bartshealth.communityasdasteam@nhs.net

Completing the referral form:

Our referral form is structured using the Autism diagnostic criteria from the DSM-V and ICD-11.

Each question is seeking different but relevant information related to the diagnostic criteria. It is important that for **every** question; there is a comment about the child's presentation **and** a specific example given. This will help us gain a picture of the individual.

Who should fill out the referral form:

The form should be completed by someone who knows the child/young person the best. For example, it could be filled out jointly by the child/young person's class or a Speech Therapist **and** a parent so that we can get information from school and home environments.

What supporting information do I need?

The Referral form lists information that would be helpful to us if you have it for example, Speech and Language Therapy Report, Educational Psychology Report, some standardised questionnaires.

Should I send in School Observations?

Because our waiting list is currently very long, a lot of information first supplied with the referral can 'go out of date' by the time we offer an appointment. We will contact nurseries/schools other professionals to request the supporting information we may need once the child is given an appointment. This will help us have more relevant and up to date information.

Helpful tips and rules for filling out the form:

- Please **avoid terms** like "child has severe social communication and interaction difficulties" – we want to know what those difficulties look like in everyday language.
- Be **descriptive** – *help us visualise the child/young person.*
- Include **specific** evidence or examples
- Write using **parent friendly** vocabulary
- **Confidentiality** policies e.g., *don't name other family members/friends*
- Include both **observed** and **reported** evidence, where possible
- Read the **italic writing** in each question to help guide you.



Here are some examples of the level of description we are looking for:

<p>Describe and give examples of how the child/young person plays / spends their leisure time. <i>Consider what with, who and how.</i></p>	<p>Example answer: They like to play with construction toys: duplo, wooden bricks. They will build structures of their own design, by themselves but will let adults play with them. They will then display these creations but not play with them.</p>
<p>How do they let you know how they are feeling? <i>Consider different emotions not just obvious ones like sadness/happiness.</i></p>	<p>Example answer 1: When they are feeling excited, they will make high pitched loud noises and have a lot more energy, running around the environment.</p> <p>Example answer 2: They have symbols to represent simple emotions, which they show to adults and children to share their mood.</p>
<p>Describe and give examples of any unusual or intense interests the child/young person has.</p>	<p>Example answer: X is interested in tanks and is able to recognise different models from pictures. When he shares information about tanks, he will talk at people without giving time for the other person to talk. He is unaware the other person is finding it boring.</p>
<p>Please give any examples of unusual body movements the child/young person does.</p>	<p>Try to describe the movement and what you have seen. It is also helpful to tell us how often these movements happen and do they tend to happen at certain times.</p>

IMPORTANT

Parents and Carers Understanding of Autism and the Process:

It is essential that as a referrer you have talked about and explained Autism and the assessment to the parents/carers and have sign posted them to relevant local services and resources that can aid their understanding as they wait for an assessment. There are local services that can help provide support and advice without a diagnosis and it is essential that families and children/young people are encouraged to access these. Information about services can be found on the Tower Hamlets Local Offer.

