



Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2)


Have you noticed that your child is struggling with things like talking, playing with others, or making eye contact?

These behaviors could be early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Recognizing these signs is important because it is the first step toward helping your child get an autism diagnosis. The earlier a child is diagnosed, the sooner they can begin life-changing interventions like applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy.

Action Behavior Centers offers the **Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2)**, a face-to-face assessment that helps professionals evaluate children for possible autism. During the ADOS-2, highly trained teammates carefully observe how your child talks, plays, and interacts with others. Diagnostic professionals can use the ADOS-2 results to inform the autism diagnostic process.

 **A gold standard** The ADOS-2 is considered a “gold standard” measure for helping evaluate a child for ASD. This tool is backed by research and helps clinicians reliably and accurately identify autism symptoms.

 **Play-based** Children have fun participating in the ADOS-2. It's not like going to the doctor! During the 40 to 60-minute assessment, our clinicians engage in play and activities tailored to the child's age and developmental abilities.

 **Scoring** Following the assessment, scores are calculated that indicate how closely the child's behaviors in fundamental areas match autism characteristics. A summary is sent to the child's pediatrician or referring provider to include in their diagnostic process and recommendations.

Frequently asked questions about the ADOS-2

? What are some common signs of autism?

Autism affects how a child learns, behaves, and interacts with others. Signs may include difficulty with social interactions, communication, and eye contact. Children may also show strong interest in specific topics, repeat behaviors, or react intensely to certain sensory stimuli. Some may engage in self-injurious behaviors

? What happens during the ADOS-2?

Throughout the assessment, the clinician calculates a score based on how the child's behaviors align with key autism signs. When the results are ready, usually within one week, they are sent to the referring pediatric medical provider to inform their evaluation, diagnosis decisions, and recommendations.

? Does the ADOS-2 diagnose autism?

The ADOS-2 is a great tool for seeing if a child might have autism, but it does not officially diagnose it. Your child's doctor will consider all sources of information to determine if your child meets the diagnostic criteria for autism. A provider might also gather the following information to make an autism diagnosis:

- Interview with the child's caregivers
- Developmental and medical history
- Additional tests or questionnaires

Your doctor may recommend further steps, such as more in-depth testing with a specialist. If a diagnosis of autism is made, your doctor will make treatment recommendations, such as **ABA therapy**.

? Does insurance cover the ADOS-2?

We offer the ADOS-2 as a **no-cost service** to the community, helping families access autism evaluations without long specialist waitlists. This allows for quicker diagnoses and faster access to autism care for your child.

