



NEURO- DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT GUIDE

FOR PARENTS



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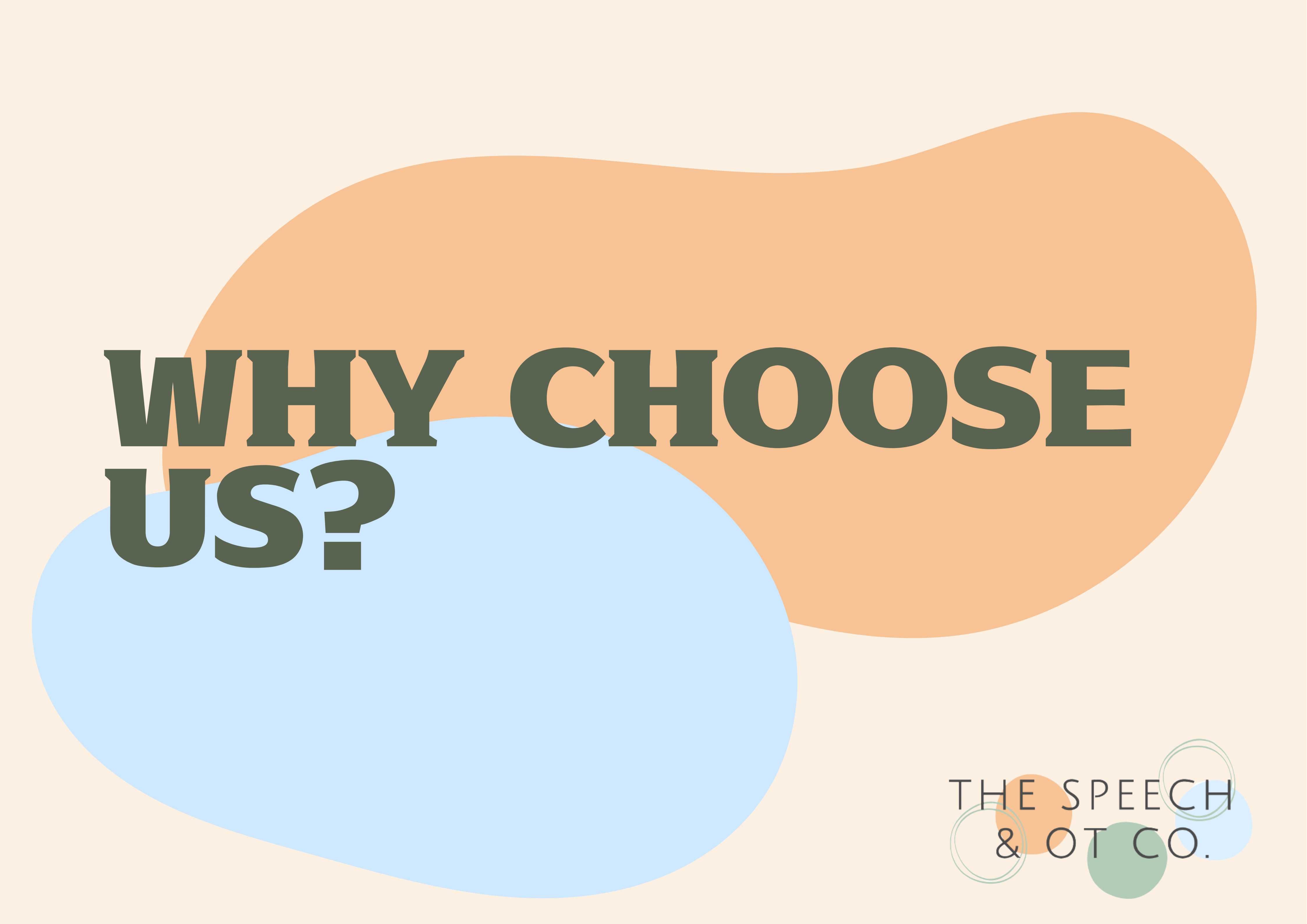
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**Assessments available
from both our Glenroy &
Chelsea Heights clinics**



WHY CHOOSE US?



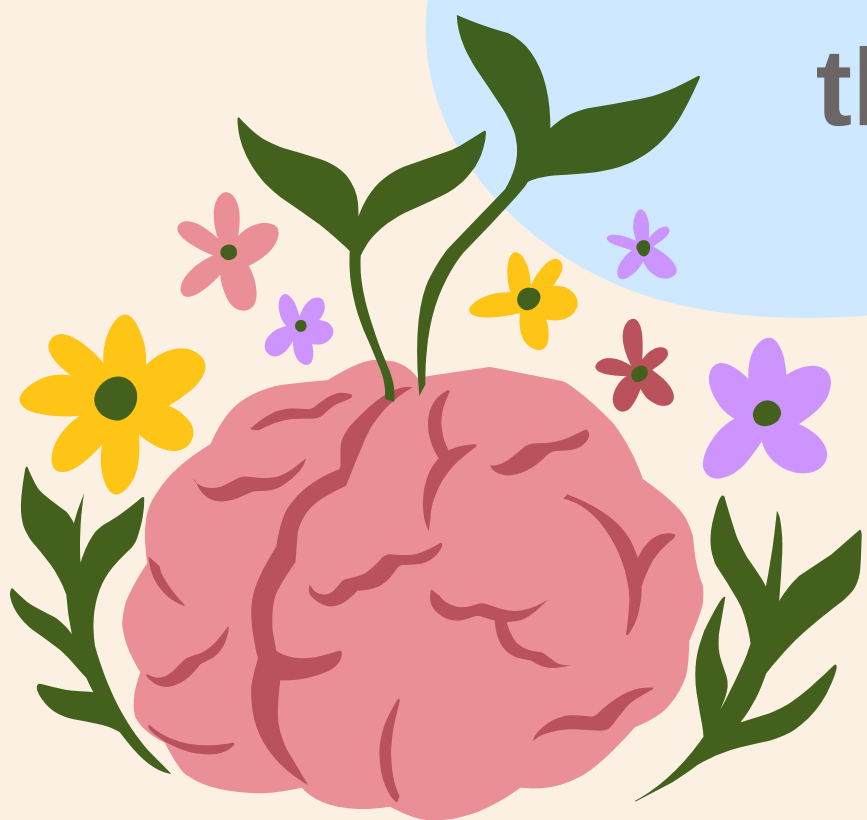
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WHY CHOOSE US?

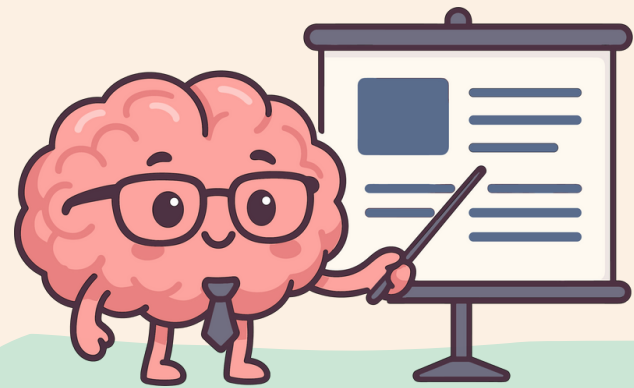
Choosing where to start your child's autism assessment is a big decision.

The process can feel overwhelming and at times pathologising for families. We're committed to creating an experience that feel clears, supportive, and as stress-free as possible.

We are also fierce advocates of neuro-affirming practice. Our approach to assessments and report writing follow the Affirming Framework outlined in the Autism CRC National Guidelines (2023).



WHY CHOOSE US?



Comprehensive and Evidence-Based

We go beyond a traditional medical or deficit lens, using evidence-based, gold-standard tools aligned with National Guidelines.

We also look in depth at communication and sensory profiles, emotional experiences, PDA (Pervasive Drive for Autonomy), and any co-occurring needs.

A Supportive, Neuro-Affirming Approach



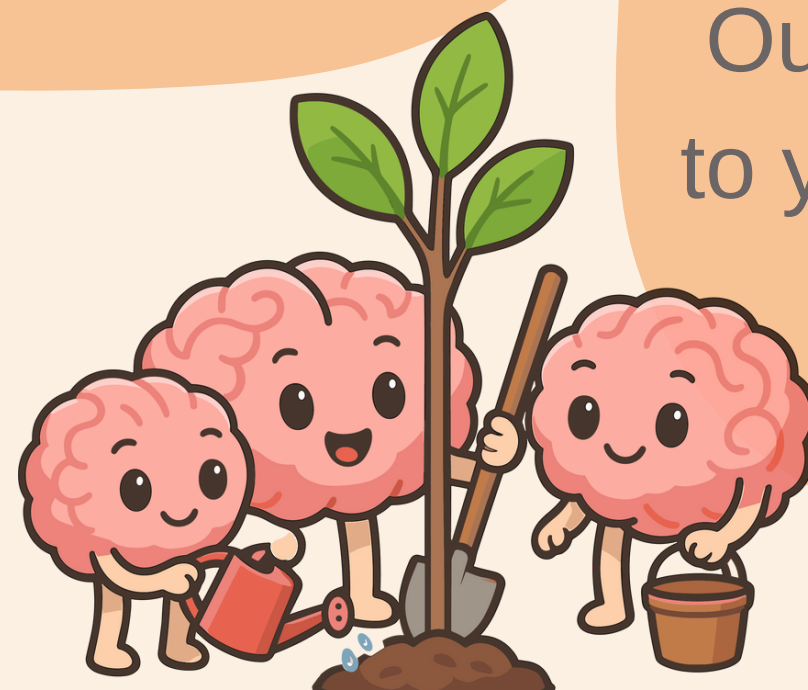
We take a strengths-based approach while also recognising the real challenges your child may be experiencing.

Our assessments are comprehensive and focus on understanding your child's internal world — not just what we see on the surface.

Flexible and Family-Centred

We know life is busy, so we offer a mix of telehealth and face-to-face appointments.

Our service is flexible and designed to adapt to your family's needs, making the process as smooth and accessible as possible.



OUR CLINICIANS

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OUR CLINICIANS

Our team includes experienced and neuro-affirming speech pathologists, a partnering clinical neuropsychologist from Younique Psychology for diagnostic oversight, and occupational therapists who help us understand each child's sensory profile.

Speech Pathologists



Hat

Hat is an autistic, ADHD speech pathologist and neurodevelopmental practitioner with extensive experience in neurodevelopmental assessments, including complex presentations.

She draws on both her clinical expertise and lived experience, along with strong connections within the autistic community, to guide her practice.

Hat has particular interests in mental health, developmental trauma, PDA (Pervasive Drive for Autonomy), and masking.

She is trained in the ADOS and MIGDAS assessments, ADHD assessment tools, and is highly experienced in gathering developmental histories.

Ayesha is a speech pathologist with extensive experience supporting people of all ages and backgrounds.

She enjoys working with a diverse range of children and their families, offering support that is tailored to each child's unique abilities.

Ayesha has particular interests in communication, fluency, paediatric feeding, community connections, and working closely with the autistic community.

She is trained and experienced in administering the ADOS and MIGDAS assessments.



Ayesha

Megan is a paediatric speech pathologist with experience supporting communication development across the lifespan, using a holistic, family-centred approach.

She is passionate about working with the autistic community, early childhood families, children with developmental delays, and those using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

Megan combines her clinical expertise with a strengths-based and playful approach, tailoring therapy to each child's interests and abilities.

She is trained to administer the ADOS assessment.



Megan

Neuropsychologist

Jessica is a neuropsychologist who partners with our service to provide comprehensive, neuro-affirming autism assessments.

She completes the MIGDAS assessment at YOUnique Psychology in Murrumbeena as part of the process.

Jessica works with individuals across the lifespan, exploring cognitive, educational, and neurodevelopmental differences to help them understand and maximise their strengths.

She takes a personalised, practical approach, tailoring each assessment to the individual, with a focus on supporting neurodivergent individuals and those with suspected learning or cognitive differences.



Jessica

Occupational Therapists

Your child's sensory profile assessment, if required, will be completed by one of our occupational therapists in your area.

You can learn more about them and their experience at thespotco.com.au/our-team.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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MAIN ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

These are the main components of our assessment that you and your child will take part in. They are included in all of our autism assessment pathways and are designed to give us a comprehensive understanding of your child.

Assessment Component:

What to Expect:

Discovery Call

An online meeting to discuss your child's presentation, explain our neuro-affirming approach, and determine if a full autism assessment is recommended.

This is a screening session, not a diagnostic assessment.

Developmental History

An in-depth online meeting to explore your child's early development, strengths, communication style, attention, and behaviours.

Your insights help build a clear picture and guide the assessment.

MAIN ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

MIGDAS Assessment

A sensory-based assessment that includes observing your child and gathering input from caregivers and teachers.

It uses their interests and sensory experiences to create a detailed behavioural profile.

**Facilitated by YOUNique Psychology*

Vineland Assessment

A sensory-based assessment that includes observing your child and gathering input from caregivers and teachers.

It uses their interests and sensory experiences to create a detailed behavioural profile.

Feedback Session

An online meeting with the lead clinician to review assessment results, key findings, and recommendations, with time to ask questions and discuss next steps.

You will receive a full quote after your Discovery Call that will outline all included and recommended components for your child's personal assessment.

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Sometimes we need more information or time to fully understand a child's profile. These optional components may be recommended depending on your child's needs or complexity of the case. You might also choose to opt into some of the below to ensure the assessment captures a complete and authentic view of your child's strengths, behaviours, and experiences.

Assessment Component:

What to Expect:

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting

An online meeting between all clinicians involved in the assessment to discuss findings, results, and diagnostic opinions.

This may not be needed if the case is straightforward and all clinicians are in agreement.

SPOT Therapist Handover

If your child sees a SPOT therapist internally, we arrange a handover to share information and ensure continuity of care.

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Education Observation

A clinician may visit your child in their school or educational setting to observe behaviour and discuss their presentation with the staff supporting them. This is usually the first appointment in this setting, so the child can behave naturally without being influenced by awareness of the clinician.

Child 1:1 Session

A play-based, child-led session to get to know your child, their interests, and experiences. This session provides additional observation and interaction to understand their internal experiences, especially if the child is masking or the case is complex.

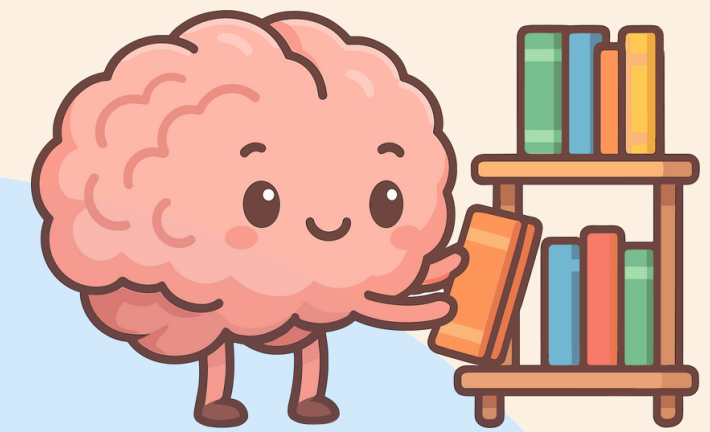
Sensory Profile (SP-2)

A standardised assessment of your child's sensory processing patterns and how these affect their participation in daily life. This is always required for an autism assessment unless a recent profile has already been completed.

Additional Assessments

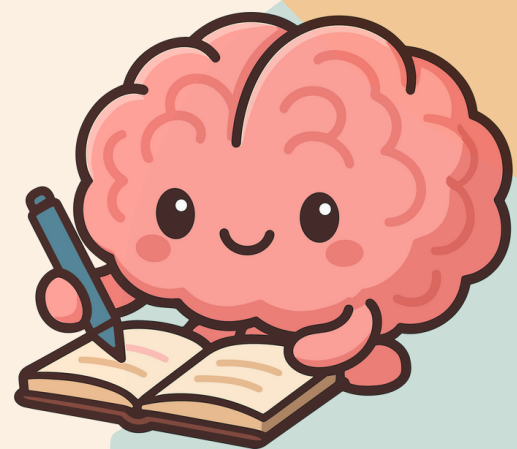
Depending on your child's needs, additional assessments may include cognitive, educational, language, or ADHD assessments to provide a more complete understanding of their strengths and needs.

REPORT AND RESOURCES



Your Report

After the assessment, you'll receive a report summarising the outcome. This will be provided before your feedback session so you can review it and ask your therapist any questions.



Alternative Reports

Families wanting more detailed insights can request a comprehensive report. This includes a deeper interpretation of assessment findings and broader recommendations tailored to your child's individual profile.

For older children, a child-friendly version of the report can also be provided, written so they can read and understand their diagnosis.

Resources

If your child receives an autism diagnosis, we'll also provide a post-diagnosis resource booklet.

This includes neuro-affirming strategies and guidance for children and teenagers, tools to build a positive sense of self, and practical tips for families.

Some resources may not be relevant right away, but they'll be available for whenever your child is ready.

FEEES AND TERMS

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FEE STRUCTURE

Fee Structure

The cost for a comprehensive assessment is **\$3,731.35**, which covers the main assessment pathway outlined in the Assessment Process section.

If your child is an active NDIS participant, you may be able to subsidise up to \$2,473.37 through your NDIS package.

It is important to note that assessment costs vary based on a number of factors, including the complexity of the case. Thus, further assessment may be required, and additional fees will be discussed with you throughout the process if/as required.

Fee Notes

- Fees are regularly reviewed and may change over time.
- NDIS funding may be available for parts of the assessment. Please speak with our admin team, your assessor, LAC, or Plan Manager if you need guidance.
- Full payment is required in advance for the comprehensive report.

KEY TERMS OF SERVICE



Cancellation Policy

We follow a **strict 48-hour cancellation policy**.

As many aspects of our assessment process are non-direct, we will aim to be flexible and can complete these online where possible to minimise the need to cancel or reschedule.

In the event of needing to reschedule one of the direct (face to face) appointments with less than 48 hours notice, there will be a cancellation fee charged.

Wellness Policy

To ensure the safety of all children, families and our own, we are proud to have **wellness policy** in place.

For everyone's safety, please notify us if anyone in your home is unwell prior to your mobile or clinic-based session..

Late Arrival Policy

We ask that you notify our administration team, or your therapist, if you are running late to a session as this may impact planning, how much can be completed or how this time is utilised

PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

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PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

It can be helpful to know what we'll be exploring during the assessment. These areas come from the diagnostic criteria, and reflecting on them beforehand can make the process feel more familiar and less overwhelming.

Communication

How your child prefers to communicate, how they express needs and ideas, and what conversations typically look like for them in both group and one-to-one settings.

Section A

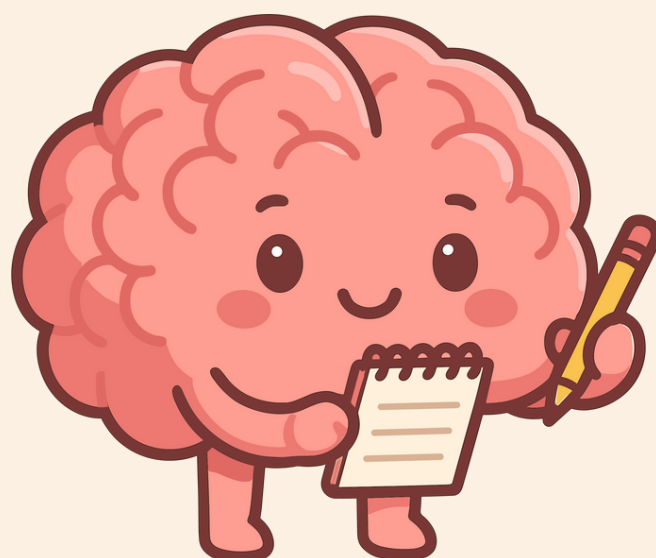
The child must meet all three criteria for this section.

Non-Verbal Communication

How your child uses and understands non-spoken cues such as facial expression, gesture, eye contact, tone, and the rhythm or volume of their speech.

Relationships

What your child's friendships and relationships look like, their social motivation, social battery, emotional expression, and how they understand others.



PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

Section B

The child must meet at least two of the four criteria for this section.

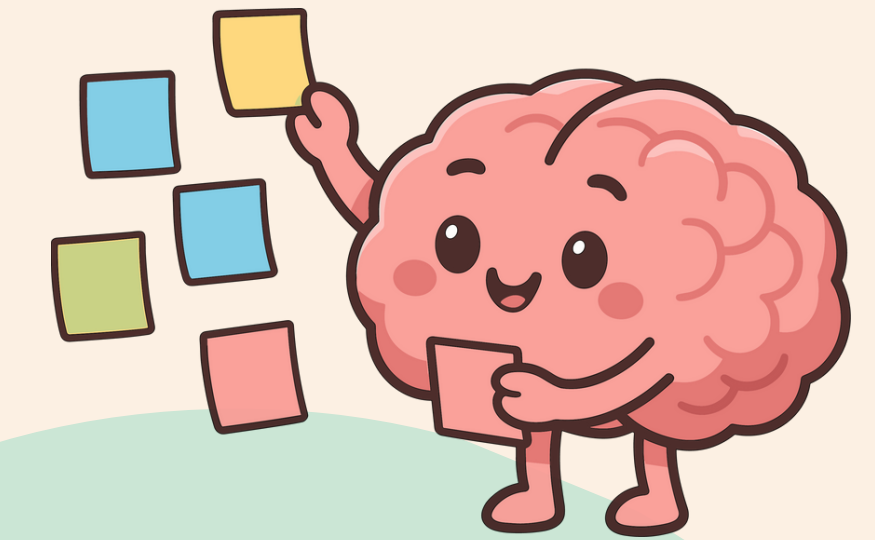
Stimming

Whether your child uses repetitive movements, sounds, or sensory behaviours to regulate emotions, express themselves, or stay calm.

This includes things like body movements, fidgeting, and echolalia (repeating sounds or phrases).

Routine & Predictability

How your child manages change, transitions, and uncertainty. We look at their need for routine, flexibility of thought, and individual cognitive style.



Interests

Your child's passions, the intensity of their interests, and how they focus and engage with the things they love.

Sensory Experiences

How your child experiences the sensory world — sound, smell, touch, taste, vision, internal body sensations, and body awareness. We discuss what feels overwhelming, soothing, enjoyable, or uncomfortable.

We look at how these traits impact your child's daily life, and we also consider whether any other factors could explain what we're seeing. To meet diagnostic criteria, these traits must have been present from early childhood.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT



Developmental History

Some families find it helpful to jot down their child's differences, strengths, and any concerns ahead of time.

We'll ask about early developmental milestones (such as motor and communication milestones), so having those ages handy can be useful.

In the weeks before the assessment, you may want to observe how your child uses gestures, facial expressions, tone of voice, and the ways they communicate. It can also help to speak with people who know your child well — grandparents, educators, or other caregivers — to gather their perspective. Depending on your child's age and communication style, you might also talk with them about their experiences.

After the developmental history session, you're welcome to email any extra details you remember. We understand it can be hard to cover everything in one call.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT



Education Consult

We collect input from your child's educator as part of the assessment. After you receive your quote, please share the best email address for their teacher/kinder and let them know that we'll be in touch.

We'll then contact the educator to complete a short questionnaire about your child's learning and day-to-day experiences.

Feedback Session

Receiving an assessment outcome can feel big, so some parents find it helpful to prepare a list of questions beforehand. You're also welcome to email any additional questions afterwards.

Having a support person with you can be helpful, as can giving yourself some space after the appointment to process the information and emotions that may come with it.

Many families also find value in connecting with online parent communities to hear from others who have gone through similar assessment experiences.

NEXT STEPS

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NEXT STEPS AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT

Post-Diagnosis

After your feedback meeting, you will receive a Confirmation of Diagnosis Letter and our post-diagnosis resource booklet.

These will help you begin an NDIS application (if needed) or provide updated evidence for a review. You can use these documents straight away to plan your next steps.

Sharing your Diagnosis

We recommend sharing the diagnosis with your child's school to support accommodations, and with your paediatrician for a Confirmation of Diagnosis Letter.

You can also share with other professionals involved in your child's care as needed.

Ways We Can Further Support You

Your clinician is available for extra guidance or to discuss next steps in more detail.

You can book an additional session for questions or planning, and join the waitlist for ongoing speech or occupational therapy if further support is recommended.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will I have to wait for an assessment?

Most families are offered an initial assessment appointment within 12 weeks of their screening call. This may vary depending on clinician availability.

How long does it take to get feedback?

Your feedback session is usually scheduled within a month of your final assessment appointment. Timelines can vary depending on the complexity of the case or whether we need additional information. We never rush this process, as accuracy and quality are our priority.

Can I pay privately for the assessment?

Yes. Payment options can be discussed during your discovery call, and you'll receive an updated quote outlining all fees.

Is the assessment covered by NDIS?

Yes, parts of the assessment can be funded through NDIS depending on your plan. Your post-discovery call quote will outline what may be claimable.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if school's feedback is different from what we see at home?

This is very common, especially for neurodivergent children who mask. Our clinicians understand masking well, which is why an education-setting observation can be an important part of the process.

When is the best time to seek an assessment?

This is a personal decision for each family. Early identification can be helpful, but it's equally important that you feel ready for the process.

What happens if my child isn't diagnosed?

You will still receive a report outlining your child's strengths, needs, and differences, as well as clear recommendations. The report will also explain why diagnostic criteria were not met.

What if my child is not in education?

If a school/kinder observation isn't possible, we can arrange a social-setting observation to ensure we see your child in a natural environment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why don't you offer assessments for children under 3?

Best practice tells us that autistic traits are usually not reliably observable before age 3+. For children under 5, we require clear, consistent traits to complete a diagnostic assessment.

What are your neuropsychologist's fees?

Jess charges \$290 per hour. Her invoices will come directly from YOUnique Psychology.

Are the neuropsychologist's fees NDIS-reimbursable?

The MIGDAS is not claimable through NDIS and will need to be paid privately. Other assessments Jess offers may be claimable — families should confirm this with their plan manager or coordinator.

What is the neuropsychologist's wait time?

Usually around 4 weeks. Jess will contact you after the developmental history call to arrange her session.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can both parents/carers attend sessions?

Yes. We encourage attendance from all caregivers involved in the child's daily life, especially for the history and feedback sessions.

Why don't you offer ADOS Assessments?

We prioritise MIGDAS as it is more affirming, strengths-based, and client-led. The ADOS can be offered upon request or if clinically required.

What if I have questions after the feedback session?

You're welcome to email your clinician any additional questions or reflections. We know it can take time to process the information.

Do you offer follow-up support after diagnosis?

Yes. Your clinician and our therapy team are available to help guide next steps, offer resources, and discuss therapy or support options.