

GIDES Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Evaluations

There is a new evaluation service for families in Whatcom County. It's called GIDES, which stands for General Interdisciplinary Developmental Evaluation System. At first, GIDES will focus on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) evaluations.

This evaluation service is a partnership between: Dr. Seema Afridi, Pediatric Neurologist of PeaceHealth, and a recognized Center of Excellence for autism diagnosis; The Arc of Whatcom County; Single Entry Access to Services (SEAS) at the Opportunity Council; Whatcom County Health Department; and Whatcom Taking Action for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

What is involved in the GIDES Autism Evaluation?

The GIDES Autism Evaluation has three parts:

1. Initial assessment with the GIDES Care Coordinator from The Arc and ARNP to discuss the child's health and developmental history, gather records, and complete any tests needed to provide more information for the evaluation appointment with Dr. Afridi.
2. Autism Evaluation appointment with Dr. Afridi.
3. Care Coordination to help the family find recommended treatment services, regardless of final diagnosis.

How can children receive a GIDES Autism Spectrum Disorder evaluation?

- All requests for the GIDES ASD Evaluation **must** be sent through SEAS by the child's pediatrician or other Primary Care Provider (PCP).
- The PCP uses a [SEAS Fax Referral Form](#), completes and signs the ASD Evaluation section of the fax form (necessary in order for insurance to pay for the evaluation), and includes relevant screenings or reports along with SEAS fax referral form.

How can a therapist, school district staff person, or other service provider help a family receive a GIDES Autism evaluation?

A therapist or other service provider who thinks a child needs an autism evaluation can:

- Talk with parents about GIDES and get permission to contact the PCP and to send relevant screening or evaluation results to the PCP.
- Contact the PCP to discuss the screening or evaluation results and recommend that the PCP refer the child to GIDES, through SEAS, as described above.
- If the child does not have a PCP, help the family get a PCP for the child, and then follow the steps above.

What can families expect once their child has been referred to GIDES?

- When the SEAS navigator receives a request from the PCP for GIDES Autism Evaluation, she phones the family within 5 days to discuss the child and family's needs in all areas, so she can help the family access all appropriate services, in addition to the GIDES Autism evaluation service.
- The SEAS navigator routes all the information, including the navigating she has done with the family to other resources, to the GIDES Care Coordinator at The Arc. Within a week of receiving the SEAS referral information, the Care Coordinator will check in with the family to let them know she is available for questions about the evaluation and/or for follow-up help accessing other resources.
- When an appointment slot is available, the Care Coordinator or the ARNP will call the family to schedule an appointment to meet to discuss the child's health and developmental history, gather records, and complete any tests needed to provide more information for Dr. Afridi.
- After the appointment with the Care Coordinator and ARNP, the ARNP provides her report to Dr. Afridi. Dr. Afridi's office will contact the family to schedule an appointment with Dr. Afridi for the evaluation.
- After the evaluation with Dr. Afridi, a care planning meeting will be held for the child and family to develop a supportive plan of care, regardless of the outcome of the ASD evaluation.