

## Children's Occupational Therapy Service

# Involvement in autism diagnosis



Sensory Screens can be completed with children who are being assessed for an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Medical professionals can refer children who have been identified as experiencing sensory concerns and the sensory concerns could be the reason for the child's social and communication difficulties.

The purpose of the Sensory Screen is to identify if there are sensory concerns and if so how much are they affecting the child's ability to function and communicate.

The Sensory Screen assessment includes:-

Parent/Carers to complete a Sensory Processing Measure (SPM) form

Clinical Observations of the child – including how they play; communicate and use their body

Parents/Carer Interview – for a history of the child's abilities and difficulties

### Following the Assessment:-

A report is then completed and sent to parent/carers and all medical professionals involved in the child's care – also school with permission from parents/carers. The report will be used by the Paediatrician/Speech and Language Therapist/Educational Psychologist along with other assessments to make an ASD diagnosis decision – to decide if the child is or is not on the ASD spectrum.

If Sensory difficulties are identified by the OT the parents/carers will be invited to attend a 'Parents Sensory Education Session' – One session of education about the sensory systems and what can be done to help a child with sensory difficulties.

If functional difficulties (dressing/using cutlery) and/or Sensory Motor difficulties are identified by the OT then further 'Therapy Support Worker' support can be provided. This will usually include 1/2/or 3 sessions of therapy to teach the parents/carers how best to help their child.