Tiers to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)*
Diagnosis and Referral of Other Disorders

- ASD Diagnosis
- ASD Assessment
- General Developmental Assessment
- Focused Developmental Screening
- General Developmental Screening
- Child Development Awareness

Updated 8/10/10

University of Washington LEND Program
Washington State Department of Health
Combating Autism Advisory Council
## Tiers to Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis and Referral of Other Developmental Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Child Development Awareness   | Promote parent, provider, and community awareness of typical child development and signs that may suggest a developmental concern to assure the well-being of children and their families and the early identification of developmental disabilities. | WA State:  
  - Child Profile  
  - WA State Well Child Exam Forms (EPSDT)  
  Checklists and Charts:  
  - Learn the Signs, Act Early, [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly);  
  - AAP Checklists – Bright Futures [http://brightfutures.aap.org/](http://brightfutures.aap.org/) |
| General Development Screening | Routine surveillance and repeated screening of developmental performance within well-child visits following AAP guidelines and typical community settings to identify children at risk for developmental delays. | AAP recommends developmental surveillance at well-child visits:  
  - 9, 18, 24, 30 months  
  - Parent Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)  
  - Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-III)  
  - Child Development Inventories (CDI)  
  - [www.aap.org/publiced/autismtoolkit.cfm](http://www.aap.org/publiced/autismtoolkit.cfm) |
| Focused Development Screening | Targeted developmental screening using validated tools to identify children needing further evaluation for specific developmental concerns. | Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC)  
  - ASQ – Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)  
  - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) and follow-up questions (AAP recommends at 18/24 months)  
  - Screening Tool for Autism in Two-Year Olds (STAT)  
  - Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) |
| General Development Assessment | General developmental assessment by providers with specific training and experience, using validated tools to provide differential diagnosis for developmental delay. Identify children who need referral for an assessment specific to autism. | Standardized assessments of:  
  - Cognition  
  - Communication/Language Skills  
  - Motor Skills  
  - Adaptive Skills  
  - Social/Emotional Skills |
| ASD Assessment                 | In-depth functional assessment for autism by clinicians with specific training and experience; use of validated tools to make an ASD diagnosis.                                                                 | Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)  
  - Autism Diagnosis Interview (ADI-R)  
  - Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)  
  - DSM-IV Criteria |
| **ASD Diagnosis**              | WAC 388-823-0500 states who can diagnose.                                                                                                                                                                 | Neurologist, Psychiatrist, Licensed Psychologist, Developmental Pediatrician |