Preparing For Your Child's Virtual Autism Evaluation

We want to begin by acknowledging that this can be a difficult and/or confusing time for you and your family-if you've been referred for this evaluation, you're probably aware that there is a chance your child may have Autistic Spectrum Disorder and likely have numerous questions and possible fears about what that might mean for his or her future. As you wade through the maze of getting a proper diagnosis, while likely trying to get various support services for your child, and wondering what else is out there to help him or her, we want you to know that we will be here for you every step of the way.

To begin, this evaluation will take place **virtually via three telemedicine visits, each lasting between 30 and 45 minutes,** depending upon the appointment.

- **Appointment #1:** the first appointment will be last about 40 min and is focused on obtaining a thorough history, to include discussing your concerns about your child, asking questions about their development, behavior and taking a thorough medical history.
- **Appointment #2:** during the second appointment will last about 45-60 minutes**,** we will be completing the testing portion of the evaluation, using a tool called "Tele-ASD-PEDS. We'll observe your child during play*, both on their own and while interacting with their caregiver in a very structured format; we'll ask you and or your child several questions, sometimes multiple times, to attempt to elicit behaviors which could indicate that your child may have Autism.

***Below is a list of items we'd like for you to have on hand for the "testing" appointment.**

PLAY MATERIALS	"REQUESTING" MATERIALS	"READY, SET, GO" MATERIALS
3 – 5 toys that could include: ~Shape sorter ~Cars, trains, trucks ~Ball ~Dishes/utensils/cups ~Musical toys ~Baby doll ~Stuffed animals	~Clear container with a lid that screws on tightly or closes tightly ~Snack for container: goldfish, fruit snacks, animal crackers	~Deflated Balloon* ~Car, truck or train *Preferred

- The activities are designed so that we can observe how your child communicates and interacts with you and plays.
- Some of these activities will probably feel different from the way you normally interact with your child at home—or even a little silly.
- The clinician will ask you to use specific words or movements so that we can observe specific behaviors and interactions.
- The doctor will discuss her brief impressions at the end of this visit, but will need time to score your child's testing, integrate this with her observations and thorough history and create a report that (if the diagnosis of Autism is likely) will be satisfactory for the insurance company to ultimately cover services that your child may need. Please expect this to take 1-2 weeks. We will call you to make the 3rd and final appointment to review her findings in detail.

Before this visit, please watch this informative video to familiarize yourselves with this entire process:

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/manuals/

Scroll down to the tab that says: "New! Preparing for Your Telehealth Appointment Video" and click on the arrow

- **Appointment #3:** this will last approximately 30 min and will consist of the doctor reviewing her findings and report in detail. If the diagnosis of Autism is made, she will be providing you with multiple resources and referrals for therapies that are geared toward helping your child improve their communication and social skills as well as any difficult behaviors they may have; this includes a prescription for ABA therapy.

Other reminders:

- Familiarize yourself with the telehealth video instructions we will be sending you by email when you make your appointment (we use "Doxy.me"). Think about which device you will use (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) and where you can place it in the room so that you can be hands-free to play.

- Think about a room you can use to play with your child and chat with us that is as free from distractions as possible (e.g., TV, tablets, siblings). We realize that not all distractions can be avoided all the time!
- Obtain the toys discussed above and set them aside in the room you intend to use (on a table or in a large container). The table above lists several examples, but they are only suggestions – feel free to bring anything else that your child loves to play with.
- Please avoid the use of phones or tablets – we want to see your child in his/her natural state while interacting with toys and family.
- If we have trouble seeing or hearing you or your child clearly, we may ask you to tell us what your child said or where he/she was looking.
- Please reach out to us with any questions.

We thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with you and your child and for granting us your trust and confidence; it is why we all do this job!

We look forward to "seeing" you and your little one very soon!

Dr. Corn & the whole Autism Evaluation team at Whole Child Pediatrics