

What is the Autism Advisory & Intervention Service (AAIS)?

How are children referred to the AAIS?

What training and support is provided by the AAIS?

The Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS) consists of professionals who have specific training, knowledge and experience in supporting children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The service is managed by a Senior Educational Psychologist.

All staff have received training in a range of autism specific approaches including:

TEACCH, ABA, IABA, PECS, INTERACTIVE PLAY, SENSORY AWARENESS and SOCIAL LEARNING APPROACHES such as SOCIAL STORIES

The service provides a combination of these main approaches depending on individual assessed needs. The service recognises that all children have different needs and that these are likely to change as they get older.

Pre-school referrals

Pre-school children who receive a diagnosis of ASD are referred to the AAIS by the designated Paediatrician or Medical Officer in Community Health Services. Young children may also be referred by their Educational Psychologist if they have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD. Pre-school aged children may access home-based support as well as intervention in their play group or nursery school contexts.

School-Age Referrals

Referrals of school age children who have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD are made through the Educational Psychology Service (EPS). This ensures that important information is shared between the EPS and AAIS and assists in determining intervention and support in specific cases.

The AAIS provides training and support in the following main areas:

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Support for Parents
- Support for Schools
- Individual Support
- Training to parents, schools and other services.

Assessment and Diagnosis

The AAIS works in partnership with the health service as part of a multi-disciplinary assessment and diagnostic team approach to diagnosing both pre-school age and school age children.

Support for Parents

The service works with parents and health services to provide home-based support for young children. The service also provides training for parents of children who are in the early years of education as well as parents of children who are transferring from primary to post-primary school.