

Dilemmas and challenges in autism assessment - addressing the lived realities for autistic people

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Overview of presentation



Who is this presentation about?



**Assessment dilemmas
and challenges**



Case example

Who is this presentation about?



Young people who are missing from education.



Young people who are known to services but are accessing very little.



Young people who need help but fall between the gaps in services



Young people whose difference means that universal and targeted services don't work for



Young people who are not able to achieve the outcomes they deserve

LONG-TERM RISKS FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE



Loss of opportunities
for social and emotional development



Increased vulnerability
to poor mental health



Potential for autistic burnout
due to lack of supportive engagement

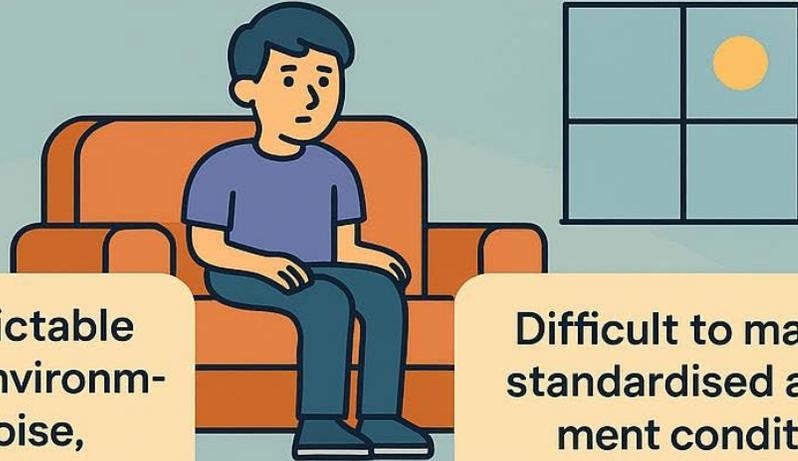


Barriers to independence,
community participation
and future employment



Increased stress and pressure
on family members/carers

Challenges of Assessing Autism in Housebound Young People



Unpredictable home environment (noise, interruptions, limited space)

Difficult to maintain standardised assessment conditions



Safeguarding and consent considerations increased in private homes

Reliance on family/carers can introduce bias



ADOS-2 RELIABILITY IN HOME SETTINGS



ADOS-2 is highly reliable
in clinic settings with
trained clinicians



Reliability depends on strict
adherence to standard administration



Home environments increase
variability and risk of drift



Interpret home-based ADOS-2
outcomes with caution

Reliability of Autism Assessment

WITHOUT EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION



Educational input provides crucial cross-setting evidence



Without school information, diagnostic confidence decreases



Risk of false positives/negatives increases without multi-context data



Screening tools are less reliable without teacher reports



Missing educational information reduces MDT perspective

ADDRESSING RELIABILITY AND ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES



Use multiple informant interviews for broader context



Create clear, predictable home visit protocols



Strengthen MDT communication even if team members aren't present



Support families to understand and prepare for a home based assessment



Plan staged or follow-up assessments





