

FOR THE PARENTS

If there's suspicion of communication and social interaction difficulties



Your child visited the children's health centre. During this appointment, your child's communication development and social interaction ability was examined. We assessed that your child has communication difficulties but also difficulties with what we call social interaction.

Social interaction

Examples of social interaction difficulties may be that your child does not make much eye contact, does not react when hearing their name, does not follow the parent when they point at something, does not point when they want something and/or does not play pretend/make-believe (for example supermarket or with dolls).

Referral for continued assessment

The children's health centres' routines stipulate that they send a referral for continued assessment when a child is deemed to have communication and social interaction difficulties. In some cases, the continued assessment is made by the Parents' and children's health services and in other cases the referral is sent to the Child and youth habilitation services. Then, an appointment is booked and depending on which unit the referral was sent to, there will be different staff members present.

Autism

What the staff will look for during the visit is if your child may have difficulties within what is called the autism spectrum. Autism is not a disease but means that the brain functions in a different way. Autism affects a person's way of thinking, being and communicating with others. It is characterised by the fact that the child is usually slower in their communication development and that the child does not interact and play in the same way as other children of the same age.

If you suspect that your child has autism, the staff will suggest that an investigation is carried out. The reason why we want to detect autism in children early on is that we know that it is good for the children to get early help with their communication and interaction with other children of the same age. All efforts are voluntary and at any time you can decide that you don't want to continue with the investigation.

Visit for continued assessment

At the visit with the Parents' and children's health services or with the Child and youth habilitation services, the staff will ask you to come with your child for an initial assessment.

Questions about autism?

For more information on autism diagnosis, we recommend the site about "Early intervention" on Region Uppsala's website. There is also good information about at www.1177.se (search autism in the search bar).

If you have any questions after the visit to BVC, do not hesitate to contact your BVC nurse.