

# Assessment in Beacon Alternative Provision

## Autism Approach



In essence, Beacon Alternative Provision Autism Approach uses creative and meaningful activities to help children with autism improve their cognitive abilities and daily living skills in a personalised and structured way.

Here's how children are assessed:

### 1. Initial Assessment:

- **Background Information:** Collect comprehensive information about the child's medical history, cognitive impairments, daily living skills, interests, and past experiences.
- **Observation:** Observe the child in various settings and during different activities to understand their current abilities and challenges.
- **Interviews:** Conduct interviews with the child, family members, and caregivers to gather additional insights into the child's needs and preferences.

### 2. Standardised Assessment Tools:

- **Cognitive Assessments:** Utilise tools like the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) or the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) to evaluate cognitive functions and autism-related behaviours.
- **Functional Assessments:** Employ assessments to evaluate the child's ability to perform daily living activities and adaptive functioning.

### 3. Cognitive Ability Levels:

- Assess the child's cognitive ability and developmental level, tailoring interventions accordingly.

### 4. Personalised Assessment:

- **Activity Analysis:** Analyse the child's performance in specific activities to identify strengths, weaknesses, and potential areas for growth.
- **Goal Setting:** Collaborate with the child and their support network to set personalised, achievable goals based on the assessment findings.

### 5. Ongoing Assessment and Monitoring:

- **Continuous Observation:** Regularly observe the child's participation and progress in activities.
- **Feedback and Adjustment:** Provide feedback and adjust the activities and goals as needed to ensure they remain challenging yet achievable.
- **Progress Reviews:** Conduct regular formal reviews to evaluate progress towards goals and make necessary adjustments to the intervention plan.

## 6. Outcome Measures:

- Use specific outcome measures to track improvements in cognitive abilities, daily living skills, adaptive functioning, and overall quality of life.

By using a comprehensive and personalised assessment approach, the Beacon Alternative Provision Autism Approach ensures that each child receives the most appropriate and effective support to enhance their cognitive abilities and daily living skills.

## Examples of Activities in Beacon Alternative Provision Autism Approach

The Beacon Alternative Provision Autism Approach uses a variety of creative and meaningful activities tailored to the child's cognitive and motivational levels. Here are some examples of activities that might be included in this approach:

### 1. Art and Craft Activities:

- **Painting and Drawing:** These activities help improve fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and creative expression.
- **Collage Making:** Cutting and gluing pieces of paper to create a collage can enhance attention to detail and planning skills.
- **Pottery or Clay Modelling:** Working with clay can improve tactile perception and hand strength.

### 2. Puzzles and Games:

- **Jigsaw Puzzles:** Completing puzzles enhances problem-solving skills and spatial awareness.
- **Board Games:** Games like chess, checkers, or memory games can improve strategic thinking and memory.
- **Crossword Puzzles and Sudoku:** These help in developing language skills and logical reasoning.

### 3. Daily Living Skills Practice:

- **Cooking and Baking:** Following recipes can improve sequencing, measuring, and organisational skills.
- **Gardening:** Planting, watering, and tending to plants can enhance sensory experiences and provide a sense of responsibility.
- **Household Chores:** Tasks such as folding laundry, setting the table, and sweeping the floor help in practising routine and organisation.

### 4. Social and Communication Activities:

- **Group Discussions:** Participating in group talks about various topics can improve communication skills and social interaction.
- **Role-Playing:** Acting out different scenarios can help with understanding social cues and practising appropriate responses.
- **Storytelling:** Creating and telling stories can enhance language skills and creative thinking.

5. **Physical Activities:**

- **Dance and Movement:** Simple dance routines or movement exercises can improve coordination and physical fitness.
- **Yoga and Stretching:** These activities can enhance body awareness and relaxation.
- **Ball Games:** Activities like catching or throwing a ball can improve hand-eye coordination and teamwork.

6. **Music and Rhythm:**

- **Playing Musical Instruments:** Learning to play instruments can improve fine motor skills and auditory processing.
- **Singing:** Singing songs can enhance memory, language skills, and mood.
- **Rhythm Activities:** Clapping or tapping to a rhythm can develop timing and coordination.

7. **Cognitive Challenges:**

- **Memory Exercises:** Activities such as recalling lists of words or sequences of events can strengthen memory.
- **Problem-Solving Tasks:** Engaging in tasks that require planning and decision-making can improve cognitive flexibility.
- **Educational Games:** Using apps or computer programs designed for cognitive training.

These activities are selected based on the child's current level of cognitive ability and motivation, ensuring they are appropriately challenging and meaningful. The goal is to engage the child in a way that promotes cognitive improvement and enhances their ability to perform daily living skills independently.