



## **Autism Evaluation**

*Information for your Pediatrician*

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There is a growing need in Fort Wayne for autism evaluations and long wait lists have parents waiting several months to years for a confirmed diagnosis. Because of this, many children are potentially missing out on crucial early intervention services. Board certified speech language pathologists, Mary Richardson and Brittany Hursh, are offering the service of autism evaluations to help parents on their journey.

Mary and Brittany have extensive backgrounds in working with children with autism and are specially trained in administration and interpretation of the ADOS-2 and are offering an opportunity for pediatricians and family physicians to refer families of children 18 months to 6 years for autism evaluations.

The evaluation would include administration of:

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - 2nd edition (ADOS-2)
- Childhood Autism Rating Scale - 2nd edition (CARS-2)
- Receptive/expressive language screener (PLS-5 or The Rossetti Infant-Toddler Rating Scale)
- Informal observations from during the evaluation

A comprehensive report with scores, interpretations, and recommendations would be faxed to the referring physician for a confirmation of diagnosis. A copy would also be provided to parents.

### **About Us**

#### **Mary Richardson M.A., CCC-SLP**

Mary is the owner of Sprout Speech Therapy, LLC, a speech therapy private practice specializing in motor speech sound disorders (childhood apraxia of speech, dysarthria, articulation delays, and phonological impairments). Along with private practice, Mary has over 10 years of experience in public education where she provided evaluations and treatment to autistic children and children with other moderate to severe developmental disabilities. Mary served on district autism teams providing education to staff members regarding interventions for autistic children within their classrooms.

Mary holds a masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Ball State University and is licensed to practice speech therapy in the state of Indiana. Mary maintains a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) as a nationally certified Speech-Language Pathologist through the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA).

## **Brittany Hursh M.A., CCC-SLP**

Brittany has provided speech therapy services in the school setting and outpatient clinic for 10 years. In her most recent position, she administered the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2nd Edition (ADOS-2) and worked in a collaborative team to determine diagnosis. She provided short term speech therapy and educated parents on autism spectrum disorder, sensory integration disorder, and mixed receptive expressive language delay. She quickly learned the extensive need for early diagnosis and intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Brittany holds a masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Cincinnati and is licensed to practice speech therapy in the state of Indiana. Brittany maintains a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) as a nationally certified Speech-Language Pathologist through the American Speech and Language Association (ASHA).

### **For questions or more information please contact:**

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