

The purpose of the evaluations is to understand your child's challenges so that he or she can get the appropriate services that he or she needs. The Organization for Autism Research's *A Parent's Guide to Assessment* can be helpful in explaining the results of the evaluations and what they mean for your child. The guide can be found at researchautism.org/resources/reading/documents/AssessmentGuide.pdf.

If you find you are spinning your wheels waiting for the results, there are things you can be doing in the meantime. Talk to other parents about what services have been helpful for their children. Investigate the therapies outlined in this kit. Start reading about autism. There is a list of suggested books and websites at the end of this kit, as well as in the Autism Speaks Resource Library at autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library.



It can sometimes be difficult to read some of the evaluations about your child's strengths and challenges. It's helpful to remember that your child is the same child as before the diagnosis and all of the evaluations.

Autism and Insurance

While there are effective treatment options for autism, these services are not consistently covered by health insurance. Since 2007, Autism Speaks has focused its state advocacy efforts on passage of meaningful autism insurance reform. As of May 2014, 37 states have enacted laws that require certain health insurance plans to cover the treatment of autism, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). These states appear in green on our state initiatives map at autismspeaks.org/advocacy.

Unfortunately, determining whether your insurance plan includes a meaningful autism benefit is not as easy as looking at a map. Not all plan types are subject to state law. Additionally, many state autism insurance laws further exclude certain plan types or impose age caps that may adversely affect your coverage.

Autism Speaks Insurance Link was developed to help families navigate the complexities of health insurance for autism. By answering a short series of questions, this online application will help parents determine whether their dependent is entitled to autism benefits under their health insurance plan. If not covered, Autism Speaks Insurance Link will provide parents with the tools to effectively advocate for meaningful coverage for the treatment of autism.

For more information about Autism Speaks efforts related to health insurance for autism, please email advocacy@autismspeaks.org.

And to access the Autism Speaks Insurance Link please visit autismspeaks.org/advocacy/insurancelink.

"While we were waiting for EI to complete the 'evals', my husband and I picked up two copies of the same book about autism and raced each other through it. By the time the tests were done, we'd learned a lot!"