



## **Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children: STAT Testing**

Castle Rock Pediatrics offers the Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children (STAT). This secondary screening tool can be used in addition to our Autism Evaluation appointments.

### **What is the STAT?**

The STAT is an interactive tool used to screen for Autism in children 14-47 months of age (best for 24-36 months). It consists of 12 steps and takes about 20 minutes to administer. Activities assess social and communicative behaviors including imitation, play, requesting, and directing attention. The STAT is designed to be fun and playful for kids.

The STAT is often used in conjunction with Autism Evaluation visits, which are history-based visits that focus on behavior and development. Visit our website to learn more about Autism Evaluation visits.

### **Why the STAT?**

Many children do not receive a definitive diagnosis of autism until they are 3-4 years old, or older. The purpose of autism screening is to identify early common signs of autism. Early detection of autism has been shown to lead to significant improvements in long-term outcomes, including improved cognitive functioning, social behaviors, adaptive behaviors, and language skills.

### **Who should get STAT testing?**

The STAT can be done on any toddler or young child for whom there are developmental delays or a concern for possible autism. This includes children who had an abnormal ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) or MCHAT (Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers) at a well visit. The STAT may also be recommended after a provider completes an Autism Evaluation visit.

### **Who does the STAT testing?**

One of our Physician Assistants, [Laura Westover](#), has been certified to administer the STAT in our clinic!

### **Will the STAT lead to a diagnosis of autism?**

Possibly. The STAT is a second level screening tool. It can help providers determine if autism can be definitively diagnosed. However, we cannot assure that your child will be given a diagnosis of autism or not after their appointment with us. It is possible that they will need further evaluation from a Behavioral/Developmental Pediatrician to have more thorough testing done.