



Autism Screening with the CARS-2

Bristow Pediatrics now offers **Autism screening using the Childhood Autism Rating Scale, Second Edition (CARS-2)** as part of our developmental and behavioral health services. The CARS-2 is a **well-validated, evidence-based screening tool** that helps assess social communication, behavior, sensory responses, and developmental patterns associated with autism spectrum disorder.

Screening is completed through **direct clinical observation, caregiver input, and developmental history**, allowing our providers to better understand a child's strengths, challenges, and support needs. Results help guide recommendations for further evaluation, school supports, therapies, and next steps when appropriate.

Our approach is **thoughtful, developmentally appropriate, and family-centered**, with the goal of providing clarity, guidance, and early support.

Who May Benefit from CARS-2 Screening?

Autism screening may be recommended for children who:

- Have delays in speech, language, or social interaction
- Show differences in play, eye contact, or peer relationships
- Have repetitive behaviors or sensory sensitivities
- Have concerns raised by parents, teachers, or caregivers
- Need formal documentation to support school services

What Families Can Expect

- A supportive, respectful evaluation
- Clear explanation of findings
- Guidance on next steps, referrals, and resources
- Coordination with schools and therapists when needed

Screening does **not automatically mean a diagnosis**, but it can provide valuable information to help families and providers plan appropriate support.

