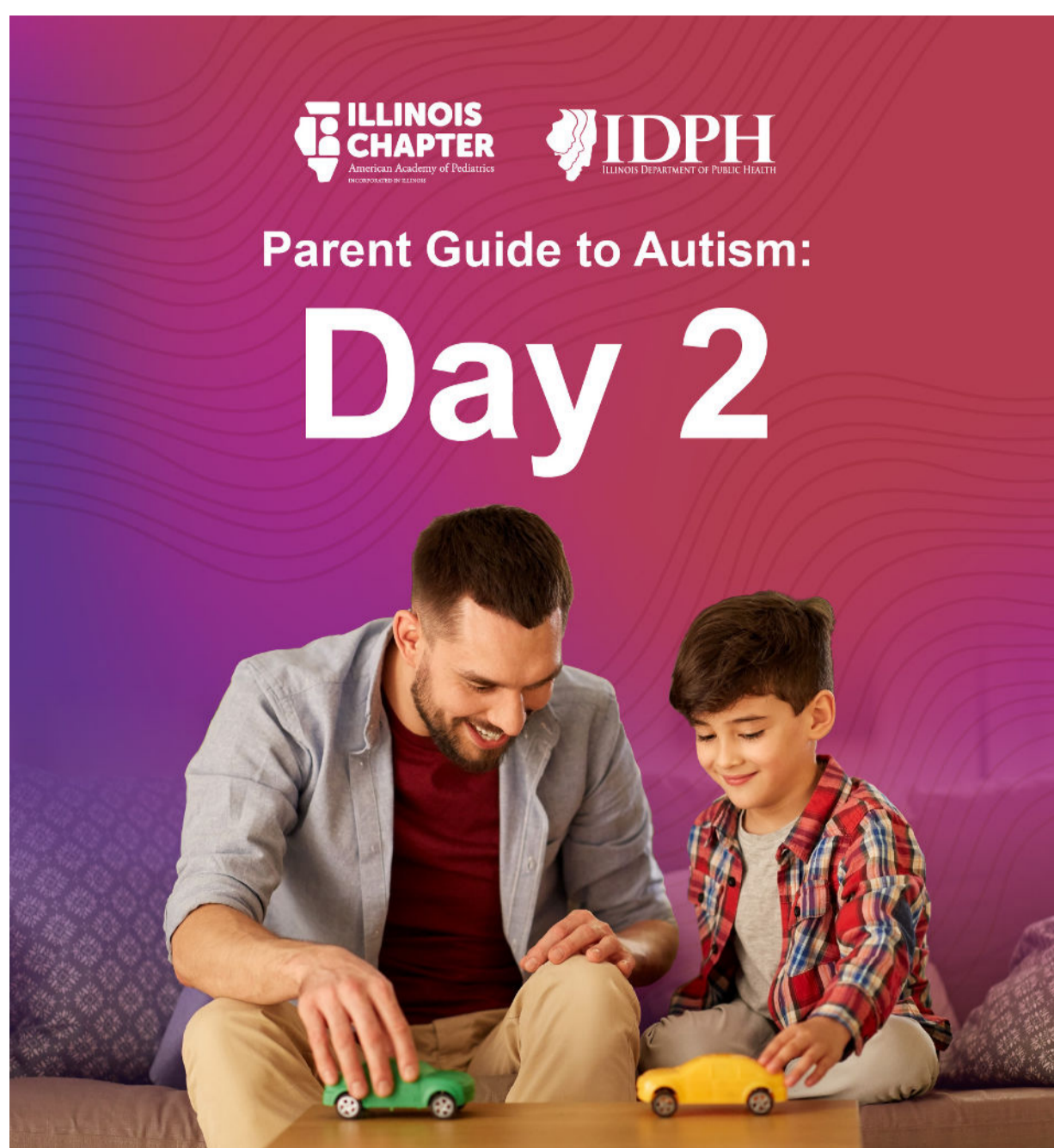


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Welcome back, <<First Name>>!

Making an Autism Diagnosis



When a Formal Evaluation is Needed

If you have a concern about something you are noticing in how your child communicates, plays, or acts, and you have discussed it with their doctor – the next step might be a formal evaluation or diagnostic evaluation.

What to Expect During the Evaluation

The evaluation will be in-depth. It may include:

Your child's doctor asking questions about health and development and requesting you to complete screening questionnaires, such as the M-CHAT. You can learn more about the M-CHAT [and other screening tools here](#).

Sample questions might include:

- Does your child make eye contact when you talk to them?
- Does your child respond to their name when you call it?
- Does your child point to show you something interesting?
- Does your child imitate you (like waving bye-bye)?

Referral to developmental specialists or speech therapists to further assess your child's development. Specialists may want to observe your child's interactions and play in a controlled environment.

Specialists may observe:

- How your child plays with toys
- Whether your child engages in pretend play
- How your child responds to social situations
- Your child's speech and language skills

Input from family members and/or teachers who may be asked if they have any concerns with your child's behavior or development in different settings.



What Happens After the Evaluation

This evaluation helps your doctor build a full picture of your child and assess their needs and the best next steps, which may include a diagnosis.

Helpful Resources:

- [How Pediatricians Screen for Autism](#) – Learn how doctors gather information to determine next steps for you and your child
- [How is Autism Diagnosed?](#) – Understand the many steps involved in making an autism diagnosis

Tomorrow we'll explore how autism shows up differently in each child. Every child is unique, and understanding this will help you better support your child's individual needs.

With care,

The ICAAP Team

Get Connected!



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