MODULE: EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

ACTIVITY 3: Diagnostic Assessment

The purpose of this activity is for you to reflect upon your experiences with diagnostic assessments for ASD.

Preparation:
Previous experience with a diagnostic assessment for ASD. Consider your experience in any of these roles – parent of the child being evaluated, member of an early intervention or school team, referral source, individual who received an evaluation as a child, professional who made a referral, member of the diagnostic team, recipient of a report.

Directions:
In a small group discussion or through individual reflection, respond to the following questions about your experiences with a diagnostic assessment. If you haven’t experienced all aspects discussed below, interview a parent or colleague to learn more about their experiences.

- How were you involved?
- What was the reason for the referral?
- How old was the child?
- Where was the assessment conducted?
- What combination of activities occurred during the evaluation?
- If instruments were used, which one(s)? Who administered the instrument?
- How was the decision to make the diagnosis reached?
- How was the information delivered to the child’s parents?
- What type of referrals and follow up resulted from the diagnostic session?
- Were written materials or other resources offered to the parents?