Screening:
Per American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines, all children should be screened for autism at the 18 month and 24 month well child visit and at any other age as indicated based on autism concerns.

Autism Screening Tools:

18 months to 3 years: Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT)

Review: MCHAT scoring info.
The MCHAT Follow-up Interview should be administered in in any cases where MCHAT score is positive, to rule out any false positive results:
Additional information can be found on the official MCHAT website.

4 years to 18 years: Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ) Lifetime Version.
(available for purchase)

Referral:
Use fax and/or email referral request process. Referral request MUST include:
- Clinical information about any signs and symptoms of autism.
- Score from the age appropriate autism screening tool.
  - question numbers of the failed items on the MCHAT
  - total score on the SCQ

A child who passes an autism screen can still be referred for an autism evaluation if the clinical history is highly suggestive of autism and this is well-documented in the chart.

Refer concurrently to Audiology if there is speech delay and no hearing test has been done within the past 12 months.

Diagnosis:
Kaiser Permanente has a number of contracted providers who provide autism diagnostic evaluations. The Referrals Department determines where a child will be evaluated.

- Request a referral through your normal referral process (either fax or electronically).
• Indicate your request is for an autism diagnostic evaluation and include clinical indications to support the request.
• For questions about pediatric autism diagnostic testing, contact developmental pediatrician Dr. Wendy Zerin (303) 657-6528.

**Treatment:**
Benefits for the treatment of an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) differ depending on the type of insurance coverage a member has. Parents are encouraged to verify benefits with Member Services regarding their coverage. If coverage includes behavioral therapy, parents can contact ValueOptions at **1-866-702-9026** to facilitate follow up Behavioral Health care.

**References:**
Identification and Evaluation of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders -
The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers: An Initial Study Investigating the Early Detection of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders -
Screening for autism spectrum disorders in primary care settings -
Year 2007 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs -