

Diagnostic Assessment Information

Summary Information

What will I receive and how will I use it?

- A full diagnostic report written by a fully qualified Specialist Dyslexia Assessor.
- The full diagnostic report can be used to provide the education/workplace with recommendations on how to support you going forward.
- Clear information about your child's/own strengths and weaknesses.

What are the timeframes?

- Pre-assessment takes 2 hours
- Assessment takes up to 4 hours
- Final assessment analysis and report completed within 3 weeks.

What will it cost?

A full diagnostic assessment costs £500. A £75 deposit is required on booking to secure the date. If, after the assessment has been completed, dyslexia is not present and the written report is not required there is an option to only pay £150.

Detailed Information

What a Diagnostic Assessment provides:

Diagnostic Assessments are requested for many reasons: you may have concerns that your child is not reaching their potential in the classroom or as a student you may need to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance for university. A detailed assessment and subsequent report will provide you with an insight into your or your child's strengths and weaknesses and how difficulties can be supported going forward. As a Specialist Teacher and Dyslexia Assessor with an Assessment Practising Certificate I am qualified to carry out a full Diagnostic assessment which will last the lifetime of the individual.

How is an assessment carried out?

Before the Assessment:

An essential part of the assessment process is gaining background information on the individual being assessed. This is done through questionnaires: one to the parents

or individual if they are over 16 years of age and one to the individual's educational establishment or workplace. These questionnaires will be reviewed pre-assessment so that I can gain crucial information of the current situation and any long-term concerns. Based on information from a visual checklist, a more detailed eye check may need to be carried out before assessment.

Assessment Day

A suitable assessment date and location will be arranged. Ideally, this will be in my home office. As the assessor, I will carry out a series of tests following strict protocols that provide details on the following areas:

- Underlying ability – what an individual should be capable of if everything were on a 'level playing field'.
- Cognitive ability – phonological awareness, processing speeds, working memory ability.
- Current levels of attainment in literacy – how their reading, writing and spelling compares to peers based on standardised norms.

The assessment process can take up to four hours. The battery of tests is essential to discover if there are any cognitive processing difficulties that may be impacting literacy attainment. These challenges, when weighed up with information from the questionnaires and observations during the testing, could indicate the presence of dyslexia or a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD).

Post Assessment

After the assessment session, I score the test papers and compare them to the standardised norms, analyse the behaviour of the individual on the day and combine this with the questionnaire information. This will provide me with the 'full picture' and will then be written into a detailed report, following strict assessing guidelines. The report will then be relayed to the individual/family. This is an important aspect of the process as it allows the individual to understand their strengths and weaknesses in more detail. Dyslexia or an SpLD can be broad and affect people differently: gaining more detail into how it impacts an individual is therefore essential. The report will also contain personalised recommendations to support the individual in their education or work environment.

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