

This note is to introduce the Literacy Care Assessment Process. It provides information about what to expect when your child is referred for an assessment.

You may be coming for one of several reasons. Usually (but not always) it will be to obtain assistance in the diagnosis and management of a learning problem around reading, writing or spelling. Other reasons include obtaining documentation to assist an application for special consideration relative to assignments or examinations.

What Can I expect?

The Assessment Process is **usually conducted over two separate appointments (the third appointment is for parents only)** and is designed to answer the following questions:

1. Does my child have a Learning Delay, a Learning Difficulty or a Learning Disability? If so, what is it?

This may have already been addressed to some degree by other professionals that you have seen at the CDN or elsewhere.

2. How far behind is my child in terms of reading and spelling age, comprehension age, reading fluency, vocabulary and what other scholastic difficulties do they have?

3. What do I have to do to help my child succeed?

Once we clarify your child's strengths and weakness profile, we can determine what type of intervention is needed, what goals can be achieved, how long it will take to reach the predetermined goals, which practitioners will need to be involved in the treatment process and what fees will be applicable.

First Appointment: Enquiry, Background, Data Analysis and some testing. Both parents and child are required at this appointment.

Second Appointment: Diagnostic Literacy Assessment with the child only.

Third Appointment: Takes place two weeks later to discuss assessment results, intervention and treatment plan with parents. The child is not required at this appointment.

In between appointments considerable time is spent scoring results, preparing the child's file, summarizing the conclusions for the parents, meeting with the referring practitioners and preparing the necessary documentation.

There should be very few unanswered questions at the end of the Assessment Process. Management options and a proposed plan will be fully documented for you at the third appointment. Information about remedial action, participation of other professionals, achievement outcomes, length of treatment, liaison with school, report writing and fees will all be included in the Feedback Documents.

A Note about Tutorial Services (Not Literacy Care)

The private tutoring industry is not regulated. It is comprised of many people of differing backgrounds including registered and unregistered teachers, retired teachers, university students and even out of work graduates. If your child has a Developmental Learning Difficulty or Disability, then these services may have little understanding of what is necessary to help your child. Learning problems must be accurately diagnosed and treated with research supported, scientific evidenced-based interventions. This type of work is specialized and can only be delivered by specially trained professionals. Effective treatment very often demands interdisciplinary action which is simply not possible by doing extra homework or through general tuition services.

What Do I Get For My Investment?

Items

- Initial Consultation (This appointment is billed separately)
- Full Diagnostic Literacy Assessment (Second Appointment – billed separately)
- Feedback Consultation (Parents Only – NO FEE)
- Meeting With Relevant Staff at the CDN (if appropriate)
- Diagnostic Literacy Report
- Step By Step Treatment Plan
- Letter/Report Back to Referring Practitioner as Required
- Explanatory documentation prepared and posted to Website
- Written Referrals to Other Practitioners (if needed)

Internet/USB Accessible or Take Home Items

- General Articles on Literacy and Learning
- Specific Articles Explaining Your Child's Difficulties
- Specific Handouts Explaining the Steps Outlined in the Treatment Plan
- Diagnostic Report
- Step By Step Treatment Plan
- Letter/Report Back to Referring Practitioner
- Written Referrals to Other Practitioners (if needed)
- Full Fee Disclosure of All Services Offered

For appointments and the latest information on fees and services please call (07) 3369 3369

First Appointment - INITIAL CONSULTATION

The first consultation is held for two reasons:

- Firstly, it is the initial step in the three step assessment process. During this hour background information is gathered and existing reports are reviewed. Some testing with the child is performed. Decisions are made about the type and nature of assessment still required and a preliminary treatment plan is formulated.
- Secondly, this consultation is useful in order to find out more about the assessment process and how your child can be assisted before making a decision to schedule a second hour for more formal assessment.

This is worthwhile if:

- Your child has completed a considerable amount of assessment and you feel that further assessment may be unnecessary.
- You simply just wish to have previous reports viewed and commented on before a decision about further testing is made.

Second Appointment – CONTINUATION of ASSESSMENT (Child Only)

The decision to have this appointment is made at the initial consultation. It involves considerably more testing with the child and together with the initial consultation fulfils a very comprehensive and thorough investigation of your child's situation.

Please give at least 24 hours notice if you cannot keep your appointment.