



ASSESSMENT: WHAT TO EXPECT

INITIAL DISCUSSION

You are welcome to call me for an initial discussion free of charge. I will talk with you, listen to your concerns and find out about your child before deciding how I can help. If I am not able to help, I will offer recommendations based on the information you have provided.

BEFORE THE ASSESSMENT

Background information and a full understanding of your child's current situation is an essential component of their assessment. I will ask you to complete a questionnaire about your child and to forward copies of their most recent school/college report together with any additional professional reports. I will then design an assessment for your child which is relevant to their age, your purpose and areas of concern.

ASSESSMENT

Detailed assessment typically involves two sessions working directly with your child each of approximately 90 minutes. This evens out any day-to-day variations in mood and attention, helps your child to ease into the assessment situation and also allows time for reflection between sessions meaning the assessment can be more individualised. Whilst your child's assessment will be personalised, it will also allow comparison of their skills in relation to children of the same age. For younger children, assessment activities are likely to be play-based, appear less formal and will be adapted to their interests and focus of attention. For older children, test-based assessment will often be supplemented by checklists and, if appropriate, structured observation at school or college. Assessment of spoken language usually covers many of the following: executive function, memory, auditory processing, vocabulary and word retrieval, listening comprehension, speech, expressive language, social communication. Diagnostic assessment for dyslexia follows a structured format which includes: verbal and non-verbal ability, working memory, phonological skills and processing speed and reading accuracy, speed and comprehension, spelling and written language. It is essential that your child's assessment takes place in a quiet, familiar setting and they have access to any breaks, water and healthy snacks required to maintain their best attention and effort.

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

I usually provide general feedback on the day and a detailed report within three weeks of your child's last assessment session. Unless you request otherwise, the report is provided as a PDF document encrypted with a password for you to distribute as required. The report includes the results of the assessment, a summary of your child's strengths and areas for development, practical strategies and recommendations which may include referral to another professional. If you would find it helpful to talk through aspects of the report or further questions come to mind you are then welcome to contact me by phone or via my website.