

Total
Children's
Therapy

Developmental Co-ordination Assessments DCD (Dyspraxia)

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Developmental Co-ordination Assessments (DCD- also known as Dyspraxia) Service Outline

Our very successful and popular DCD (Dyspraxia) Assessments have been designed to identify and support children and young people when they have difficulties in any area of their development.

The team consists of very experienced paediatric OTs and physios who will view your child as a whole and give an overview of their development. The team will be looking for any immature, patchy or missing foundation motor skills and the reasons behind them.

We describe it like a game of Jenga, if the bottom rows of bricks are not securely in place, it makes it difficult to then build up more complex skills. Often, we will see young people who have 'coped or managed' until a certain transition. However, when more is expected of them, and their strategies are then 'not enough' to mask difficulties, challenges may become more noticeable.

The therapists provide both standardised (scored) assessments, along with observations based on years of experience. The therapists will be looking for signs of any Developmental Co-ordination Disorder - DCD - (also known as Dyspraxia).

They will then advise and make recommendations based on their findings.



Who is the DCD service designed for?

These assessments are designed for children aged 3-18 years.

Children/young people may present with one or more of the following:

- Not keeping up with their peers in the classroom.
- Issues around handwriting
- Not getting work finished in time.
- Clumsiness
- Seem to always be behind peers
- Regular use of avoidance strategies
- Regular use of strategies to achieve success.
- Looking awkward compared to their peers
- Difficulties with sport
- Difficulty trying to acquire/perfect/retain motor skills.
- Avoiding or not enjoying or struggling during PE
- Avoiding, not enjoying or failing to progress at extracurricular activities such as swimming lessons
- Struggling to learn or refine fine motor skills.
- Processing difficulties (auditory/visual)
- Difficulties around educational year transitions
- Difficulties around organisation
- Difficulties with activities of daily living e.g. feeding/ selfcare/dressing
- Slower than peers to learn new skills such as swimming, bike riding, ball-skills.



Service Outline Continued

Our team will communicate with any other professionals and settings in your child's life to ensure a consistent approach and joined up working. At TCT we do not like to assess for assessments sake, and like to ensure that a family feel supported with ideas to try at home and school once they have completed the process with us.

Not all young people cope well with being assessed so we advise that you don't say that they are coming for a test/assessment/examination, or medicalise the matter by saying you are seeing a doctor or going for a consultation. Some young people cope well with facts, but for those who don't, the following phrases are sometimes helpful when coming to see us:

- **For younger children:** "we are going to see a person/lady who is going to teach us some new games".
- **For younger children:** "you know we take the car for a check at the garage - MOT - well our bodies are a bit like that, mummy and daddy get checks like this too so we are going to see a lady who will check on everything (but she does it in a really fun way)."
- **If the young person is aware they are having a few difficulties:** "we are going to see someone whose job it is to make things easier for people".
- **For older children:** "we are going to see a lady who is a bit like a detective and use lots of challenges and clues to see how she can make life easier for you".



Service Outline Continued

We do our best to turn any reports around within 2 weeks of assessment and these are provided by email (encrypted).

Reports can then be used for home and also shared with school if you would like to.

These assessments are gold standard and follow nice guidelines and so are accepted by our colleagues in the NHS, the LA and in Education.

You can find an outline of assessments offered on next page.



Fees

<p>If looking for an assessment, support and advice</p>	<p>Bronze: 30-minute clinic appointment and brief email summary</p>	<p>Fees on request</p>
	<p>Silver: 60-minute clinic appointment and brief email summary</p>	
	<p>Gold: standardised and observational assessment with recommendations with short summary report</p>	

<p>If looking for a formal diagnosis - which will then need to be confirmed by a paediatrician</p>	<p>Platinum: detailed standardised and observational assessment with full report and recommendations. This report can also be used for EHCP evidence, if required.</p>	<p>Fee on request</p>
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FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO MAKE A BOOKING

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