



Dyslexia Assessment 'What to Expect' Guide

What to expect during your Dyslexia assessment with Linked Communication?

The assessment process for dyslexia typically involves a series of steps conducted by a qualified professional to determine whether an individual has dyslexia and to what extent.

Here is an overview of the typical dyslexia assessment process:

Prior to Appointments: Pre-screening measures

Once the appointment date has been scheduled, we will kindly request you complete the pre-screening questionnaires sent to you. The screening assesses basic reading and literacy skills to identify potential areas of concern.

Additionally, we will provide you with a developmental history questionnaire to be completed. This questionnaire will encompass several key aspects, including:

- **Presenting Symptoms:** We will ask you to describe the current symptoms or concerns you are experiencing.
- **Symptom Development Over Time:** You will have the opportunity to share how these symptoms have evolved or changed over time.
- **Past Medical History:** We will enquire about any relevant medical or psychiatric history that may provide context for your assessment.
- **Developmental History:** This section will explore your developmental milestones and any noteworthy events or observations from your earlier years.

- **Family History:** We will ask for information regarding your family's medical and psychiatric history, as this can be valuable in understanding potential genetic factors.

These questionnaires and assessments will assist us in gaining a comprehensive understanding of your situation and help guide our assessment process effectively.

Appointment: Comprehensive Assessment

If the screening suggests a likelihood of dyslexia, a more comprehensive assessment is conducted. This assessment is conducted by an educational specialist with expertise in dyslexia. The comprehensive assessment may include the following components:

Interview: An interview with the individual (or their parents, in the case of a child) to gather information about their reading history, educational experiences, and any other relevant background information.

Standardised Tests: Administration of standardised tests that assess various aspects of reading, spelling, and language skills. These tests can help identify specific areas of strength and need.

Observation: Observations of the individual's reading and writing behaviours to understand their reading process and strategies.

Cognitive Assessment: An assessment of cognitive abilities, such as memory, processing speed, and phonological awareness, to understand the individual's cognitive profile.

Reading Fluency and Comprehension: Evaluation of reading fluency and reading comprehension to determine if there are discrepancies between reading accuracy and reading comprehension.

Writing Assessment: An assessment of the individual's writing skills, including spelling, grammar, and written expression.

What happens after the assessment?

All parts of the assessment are essential components of our comprehensive evaluation process.

The clinician will formulate a comprehensive differential diagnosis, taking into careful consideration all the information gathered during the assessment process.

You can expect to receive **feedback on the assessment findings within 7 days** following your appointment unless any further information is deemed necessary.

Following the discussion of the assessment and its findings, our team will prepare a detailed report. **This report will be provided to you within three weeks.** Our reports include the following components:

1. **Assessment Process:** A thorough account of the assessment procedures conducted.
2. **Information Provided by You:** A summary of the information you provided.
3. **Diagnostic Outcome:** A clear and concise statement of the diagnosis, if applicable.
4. **Understanding of Your Differences:** Our insights into your unique strengths and differences.
5. **Recommendations:** Actionable recommendations tailored to your specific needs, aimed at optimising your well-being and functioning.
6. **Resources:** A list of resources and support options for you to explore.

We strongly advise sharing our comprehensive report with your General Practitioner (GP) and any other healthcare professionals who are involved in supporting you. Additionally, our report can be a valuable asset when communicating with your workplace, education setting

or when making government funding applications, especially when seeking reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs.

We look forward to supporting you through the Dyslexia diagnostic journey.

The Linked Communication Team