

Specific Learning Disorder Assessments



We are an independent private psychology practice in Preston.

Why assess for Learning Disorders?

Learning disorders (LDs) are neurologically based processing difficulties which can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or maths. They can also interfere with higher-level skills, such as, organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long and/or short-term memory and attention. Since difficulties with reading, writing and/or maths are recognizable problems during the school years, the signs and symptoms of LDs are most often diagnosed during this time. LDs can effect reading fluency, decoding, reading comprehension, recall, writing, spelling, and sometimes speech. According to evidence-based research, LDs also have the potential to lead to problematic behaviours and impact upon a child's self-esteem. The benefits of assessing for LDs assists with identifying strengths and weakness within a wide range of cognitive skills. Once weakness are identified, targeted interventions are provided to assist with offsetting these difficulties, by using a combination of external aids and the child's own personal strengths in order to maximise their academic experience.

How is it done?

Assessment of a Learning Disorder is conducted by our in-house neuropsychologist, Mathew Staios, who has experience in the administration of a wide range of tests, including: verbal and non-verbal intelligence, academic skills, memory, attention and concentration, problem solving, and mental flexibility. This process offers a wealth of knowledge related to a child's cognitive profile and allows the NCCD team to provide a holistic and comprehensive treatment plan targeted specifically to a child's needs.

What role does NCCD play?

Once difficulties are identified and diagnosed, the child, parents and teaching staff are provided with tailored interventions to assist the child's learning needs. A diagnosis will also assist with the applying for intervention services, eligibility for Medicare rebates for certain health services and allowances for special consideration at academic institutions.

Usually a comprehensive Specific Learning Disorder assessment costs between \$1100 and \$1600 depending on case complexity, which includes assessment administration, liaison time with all other professionals involved, and a comprehensive report with recommendations.

What measures do we use?

Assessments are usually conducted over one to two sessions, and typically take three hours to complete. We use 'gold standard' measures of cognitive functioning when assessing your child, including:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition (WISC-IV)
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second Edition (WIAT-II)
- Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS)
- Children's Memory Scale (CMS)
- Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Task (ROCFT)

Why should we trust the NCCD Assessment Team?

Between us, we have over 25 years' experience working with children. We are a small team and are highly trained and experienced with administering and interpreting all assessments required in the assessment process. However, we also ensure every family who undertakes an assessment with us is given a full feedback session to go through the assessment report sensitively, and to discuss options following the outcomes of assessment. We believe in providing a transparent, ethical, professional and friendly service to families.

Contact us

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