

Dyslexia Assessment Options

Southland, 2020

Updated: July 2020

Dyslexia Support Southland has collated information of dyslexia assessment options available in Southland for parents, caregivers and schools to use.

Dyslexia Support Southland advises users of this form to exercise their own judgement when selecting an assessment. It is the user's responsibility to determine if the providers of the assessment are police vetted. While the information on this form is periodically updated, responsibility for accuracy lies with the providers of the assessments.

The information provided is for reference purposes only. Dyslexia Support Southland is not endorsing any of these assessment options and have not investigated any claims made by the providers.



Learning Differences Aotearoa Trust
learningdifferences.org.nz



Dyslexia Support
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General Assessment information

Assessing for different types of learning differences

Dyslexia is the most common form of learning difficulty that is assessed.

Assessing for dyscalculia is happening but it is not as common in NZ so there are less options available.

Assessing for dyspraxia requires two different assessments as follows;

- Global dyspraxia – one assessment for a specific learning difficulty (this is the one for dyslexia) plus an assessment from an Occupational Therapist
- Verbal dyspraxia – one assessment for a specific learning difficulty (this is the one for dyslexia) plus an assessment from a Speech Therapist

Some assessors who are completing the general dyslexia assessment will look at other learning difficulties and processing disorders that may be impacting on your child's learning and advise you of any further follow up that may be required.

Other important notes:

Always check with your school if an assessment is needed. Some schools have processes in place to support the child and may do this without you needing to get a report. The person to contact at the school is the SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator). If your school does not have a SENCO contact the teacher who is in charge of children with learning difficulties. Ask the SENCO what support they will provide for your child if you get a report completed and a learning difficulty is identified.

From 2020 some schools will have access to Learning support Co-ordinators. To find out more specific information for your school contact us on 027 201 6951 or at support@learningdifferences.org.nz

Special Assessment Conditions (SACs)

These are accommodations such as extra time and reader/writers that students can get to help them with NCEA. The school applies to NZQA to get these accommodations (they are not guaranteed). As part of this application process the school will use an assessment report. It is important that you check with the school what their process is. There are two available. The first one uses a C Grade assessment. The second option is called the alternative pathway and requires an assessment report (some schools can even do these themselves) plus other evidence that the school gathers.

Assessor	Karen Wards	Unique Minds
Assessment of ...	Dyslexia Can be used for global dyspraxia	Dyslexia Can be used for global dyspraxia and other learning difficulties
Grade of assessments	C Grade. Is an identification of dyslexia	Indicator of dyslexia
Will consider other learning difficulties		Visual Stress, Processing Speed, Dysgraphia Sensory Processing Disorder Auditory Processing Issues
Time required to complete	Takes approximately two - three hours. The sessions can be split so as not to tire the child	Done over two sessions taking two to three hours in total.
Type of delivery	Manual - written and verbal	Mainly computer based. Some manual
Programme/s used	Woodcock Johnson III	LUCID Ability LUCID LASS
Experience		Learning differences experience 9 years, Assessment experience from 2016 and lived experience.
Qualifications	B.A. PGDA Dip Tchg, NZCER Test User Reg Level A, B, Csp and C	B. Comm, SPELD NZ Cert in Specific Learning Disabilities 2015, NZ Cert in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education 2017, LUCID Training 2015 and 2018
Cost and how to pay	\$350	\$275 - Payment on-line or cash
Venue for assessing	Dunedin Motel in Invercargill. Advised at time of appointment	Unique Minds office 142 Don Street, Invercargill Can travel to schools
What you can expect from the report	Written report that states if the child is dyslexic and general recommendations for schools	Comprehensive report on learning strengths and weaknesses. Indication of dyslexia. Detailed recommendations for support at school.
Can be used for SACs*	Yes	Yes
Contact details	text: 0277160186. Ph: 03 4672408 Email: karendwards@gmail.com Best option is to text	Chris Cole - chris@uniqueminds.co.nz Ph: 021 124 7538 www.uniqueminds.co.nz
Other	Is not connected to further tutoring	Is not connected to tutoring but can be used for further one on one sessions to understand and manage learning stress and anxiety.
Availability	Southland/Dunedin	Southland. Can travel (travel costs will apply)

Assessor	Learning Differently/The Reading Room	SPELD
Assessment of ...	Dyslexia Irlens, Specific Learning Difficulties	SPELD NZ is a nationwide not-for-profit organisation that provides assessment, individualised one-on-one tuition and support for children and adults with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities (SLD).
Grade of assessments	Is an early indication of being on the Dyslexia spectrum	
Will consider impact of other learning difficulties	Such as Dysgraphia, APD, ADHD, Slow Processing Disorder, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Indicator for Maths Learning Anxiety, Irlen Syndrome, Auditory Processing Disorder and Speech	
Will consider impact of processing disorders	Takes approximately two sessions of 1 - 2 hrs each	
Time required to complete	Manual – written, verbal and computer	
Type of delivery	Lucid Software, Part of Woodcock Johnson, Kiwi Phonics, Read-Write-Spell	
Programme/s used	15 Years in business.	
Experience	Irlen's Screener, Phonics and Learning Advisor, Lucid Software operator	
Qualifications	\$350 – Payment by Eftpos, Cash, Direct Credit	SPELD NZ diagnostic assessments from \$500 for initial full diagnostic assessment (cognitive and learning) by a qualified professional. To access SPELD NZ services, there is a membership fee of \$100 per family or \$50 for those with a Community Services Card. SPELD NZ continually fundraises to help subsidise the cost of assessment and lessons for those with evidence of low income. SPELD NZ assessors work with primary and secondary school students and their reports are accepted by NZQA for SAC (Special Assessment Conditions) for NCEA exams.
Cost and how to pay	Learning Differently/ The Reading Room Premises 410 Yarrow Street, Invercargill	
Venue for assessing	Written report within three weeks that states if the child is indicating dyslexia and general recommendations for schools	
What you can expect from the report	Yes	
Can be used for SACs*	410 Yarrow Street Invercargill Ph: 03 2176871 Cell: 0212544438 Email: readingroom1@outlook.co.nz	
Contact details	Either an assessment by parents, referrals by school or incorporated in a Tutoring programme.	Contact SPELD NZ at southern@speld.org.nz or 0800 773536. A free information pack and all the membership forms can be downloaded on every page of the SPELD NZ website www.speld.org.nz
Other	Either an assessment by parents, referrals by school or incorporated in a Tutoring programme.	
Availability		

Assessor	On Track Learning	
Assessment of ...	Dyslexia.	
Grade of assessments	Indication of dyslexia	
Will consider other learning difficulties	Such as dysgraphia, Asperger's, autism etc	
Time required to complete	Irlen Syndrome Auditory Processing Disorder Speech	
Type of delivery	Takes approximately two - three hours.	
Programme/s used	Manual – written, verbal and computer presentation.	
Experience	British Dyslexia Screening Test and Woodcock Johnson assessments for word attack, word identification, comprehension.	
Qualifications	Experience in Cellfield Intervention since 2007	
Cost and how to pay	B. Ed., Dip Tch, Certificate as a trained Cellfield practitioner and licensee.	
Venue for assessing	\$2099: Part A \$250 (Written report) Part B \$1839 (Intervention)	
What you can expect from the report	On Track Learning, 64b Victoria Avenue, Avenal, Invercargill	
Can be used for SACs*	Written report within two weeks that includes results of the British Dyslexia Screening test, Woodcock assessments, A registered optometrist's examination for foveal eccentricities and instabilities. Approximately 1 page long.	
Contact details	N/A	
Other	Patria Kerr Director, On Track Learning 03 214 4181	
Availability	Woodcock Johnson assessments can be undertaken separately to the Cellfield program (\$100.00). Cost of Cellfield program is then discounted accordingly. Reduced cost of further tuition after Cellfield intervention.	