



## **SOUTH CUMBRIA DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION**

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Registered Charity No 511311

### **SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT SERVICE**

#### **WHY DO PEOPLE COME TO SEE US?**

SCuDA has been offering specialist assessment for individuals of all ages for several years. Children and adults come to us because:

- They recognise that they are better at some skills than others and would like to know why
- They would like to understand why they find aspects of learning, particularly reading, writing and or spelling difficult
- They find aspects of remembering and organisation for study and/or work particularly difficult
- They have had some assessment and/or extra help at school or college and would like a fuller assessment or updated assessment in order to have a better understanding of their difficulties
- Parents would like to understand their children's difficulties and know how best to help them at home
- Adults would like to know how they can improve their literacy skills
- Employers may request information so that they can make reasonable adjustments for an employee with specific difficulties (also see [www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work))
- Schools or other professionals have suggested that families contact SCuDA
- People of all ages would like assessments to inform special arrangements in examinations
- Students require a diagnostic report in order to apply for funded support at university (also see [www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas))

#### **WHO ARE OUR ASSESSORS?**

- A team of experienced assessors work with SCuDA. All of them have qualifications as teachers or speech and language therapists. All have additional post graduate qualifications in assessing and teaching people of all ages with specific learning difficulties including: dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language difficulties, auditory processing difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and problems with numeracy. Our assessors also hold nationally recognised Assessment Practicing Certificates.

## **WHERE ARE WE?**

- Most of our assessments take place at SCuDA's office in Stricklandgate House, in the centre of Kendal. We are also able to offer some assessments in some other locations.

## **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

- Assessments usually take 3 hours
- The assessment activities are varied and people of all ages find it a positive experience.

## **HOW TO PREPARE FOR ASSESSMENT?**

- It is important for children to know that this is not an assessment where you pass or fail. You are coming to see someone who is interested in how people learn. They will help to work out why some learning is, or has been, difficult and what might help to make things easier.
- Parents and adults may like to look at the British Dyslexia Association website for some background information. <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>
- It is helpful, if this has not been recently done (within 2 years), to arrange a check of vision.
- If there have been any concerns about hearing it is also helpful to arrange an updated assessment.
- Your assessor will ask you to complete a pre-assessment questionnaire and to pass one to your child's school. This provides background information in order to plan appropriate assessment activities.
- Children should bring examples of school work and reports with them. We also sometimes ask them to bring a current reading book and short piece of totally independent writing. There are separate requests for older students and adults.
- It is important that assessors have information about any previous assessments and / or study support. It is important for them to see relevant past specialist reports to avoid repetition of tests within too short a time, which may make results invalid.

## **WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN ASSESSMENT?**

The aim is:

- to assess performance on a range of items, allowing the assessor to consider strengths and weaknesses, and perhaps highlight styles of study which are better, or worse, for the person. Don't worry – this is not an exam which you would pass or fail.
- to collect information about reading, spelling and writing skills.

- to identify whether there is a clear discrepancy between general level of ability and reading and writing attainment.
- to consider other factors which may be affecting learning such as attention, memory, spoken language and co-ordination.
- to identify whether any reasonable adjustments will need to be made in order for a person to fully access the curriculum, its assessments or the requirements of the workplace.
- up to date tests are used which explore aspects of underlying ability, reading, writing and spelling, handwriting and fine motor skills, underlying learning skills such as phonological awareness, speed of processing and memory, speech and language and auditory processing.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE ASSESSMENT?**

- It will take an assessor up to 2 weeks to go through test results and to write a comprehensive report with individual recommendations. This will usually be emailed to you. Your assessor will suggest that you get in touch to raise any questions and/or request any amendments.
- We aim for the report to be a document that you are happy to share with family, teachers, tutors, other professionals and employees if you wish.
- A post assessment meeting can be arranged to talk through the report and recommendations.
- If the report is for a specific purpose such as application for Disabled Student Allowance at university, your assessor will explain how to proceed.
- Reports will not be sent until the invoice is settled in order to save administration costs.

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

Because we are a charitable organisation, our charges are very reasonable compared to many equivalent organisations and individuals. This does not mean that our assessors or procedures are in any way less professional, extensive or thorough.

#### **Current charges are:**

- Diagnostic assessment and report £350
- Diagnostic assessment and report paid for on the day of the assessment £325
- Consultation with assessor: £60 per hour

## **HOW TO ARRANGE AN ASSESSMENT WITH SCUDA**

To discuss or book an assessment please email

[scuda.kendal@talk21.com](mailto:scuda.kendal@talk21.com)

or phone 01539 742632 or 01539 729717

leaving your contact details so that we can get back to you.