

Paediatrics multi-disciplinary assessment

Welcome to Community Paediatrics

Information for parents and carers

*We respect, protect and
fulfil children's rights*



This leaflet contains information about your child's multidisciplinary assessment (MDA).

We hope you will find it helpful.

How do we assess your child?

Your child will be seen by a variety of specialists who are all trained to work with children. They are called the multidisciplinary team (MDT).

During the week they will carry out a series of assessments with your child, including a physical examination. This will help us find out more about your child's strengths and difficulties. We will use the information to plan with you the best ways to help your child.

As part of the multidisciplinary assessment, your child will receive an Orthoptic appointment. This is an important part of the MDA and involves testing their vision, eye position and eye movement.

At the end of the assessments you will be invited to a meeting with the specialists, on the Friday afternoon. You will need to arrange for your child to be looked after by someone else during this meeting, as it is just for parents/carers to attend.

Not all the specialists your child has seen during the week will be able to come to this discussion, but they will have given a detailed report which will be explained to you. Other professionals involved with your child from outside the hospital will also be asked to come to the meeting.

Most children will only need to have one multidisciplinary assessment, but occasionally a follow up assessment will be recommended. This might be because we need to carry out further assessments to reach a decision about how best to help your child. If your child needs to come for a further multidisciplinary assessment you will be given the appointment details at their follow-up appointment in the Outpatient clinic.

Timetable

This is an example of a timetable:

Monday

The **Paediatrician** will examine and address any medical problems your child may have. They will also get an overview of your child's needs, strengths and difficulties. They will write a summary at the end of the week, based on all the reports from each specialist.

The **Occupational Therapist** will look at your child's hand skills, seating, equipment and sensory processing.

The **Physiotherapist** will assess your child's gross motor skills (crawling, running, jumping, etc.), how they move around and their balance.

Tuesday

An **Audiology test** will be carried out for your child's hearing, with a variety of behavioural and play tests.

The **Speech and Language Therapist** will assess your child's understanding of language and their ability to communicate.

Wednesday

The **Psychologist** will look at your child's developmental level and discuss any difficulties you may have with your child's behaviour and/or emotions. It is useful to have both parents attend this assessment, if possible.

Thursday

The **Dentist** will look at your child's teeth and give advice on diet and caring for your child's teeth.

Where and when will this happen?

All of the assessments will take place in the Department of Community Paediatrics in the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital. You and your child will be based in the playroom during the assessment.

Your child will have a personal timetable and you should only need to be here for up to four hours at a time.

On Friday afternoon you will be invited to the meeting to discuss your child's assessments. Your child does not need to come to this meeting. If you have difficulty finding childcare, please speak to the Play Specialist.

About the playroom

The Play Specialist will coordinate the multidisciplinary assessment. They will be based in the department with you and your child throughout the week. They will be an advocate for your child and will observe your child's play skills.

The Play Specialist can give feedback to the team if you have any concerns or questions during the week.

The playroom is relaxed and friendly and a safe place for your child. The playroom has:

- a variety of toys and activities
- kitchen facilities
- a sensory room
- an outdoor assessment playground.

More information

If you would like more information for your child about the assessments, we have a booklet designed for children, with photos and explanations. Please let us know if you would like a copy and we can send you one before the assessment.

What you can do to help

- Tell the specialists any concerns you have about your child.
- Bring any helpful documentation or notes about your child. Their Personal Child Health Record (red book) will be useful.
- Feel free to ask any questions. It may help to write things down before you come.
- Bring a list of your child's medication.
- Tell us if your child has any fears.

Parking and lunch

There are parking permits available for one car per family. These will be sent to you in the post along with your child's timetable. We can also provide a snack box lunch for your child each day during your visit. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch for yourself and other children or make use of the nearby café facilities, if you would prefer.

How to contact us

Reception: **01865 231 959**
(9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

MDA Coordinator/Senior Play Specialist: **01865 231 962**
(If we cannot answer, please leave a message with your contact details.)

Fax: 01865 231 981

Community Paediatrics Department

Lower Ground 1
The Children's Hospital
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
OX3 9DU

We welcome any feedback you might have about your time in the hospital.

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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