

## FAQs for the Diagnostic Services at the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders

### *About Center for Dyslexia Diagnostic Services*

#### 1. What services do you provide?

We provide services for children suspected of having an academic learning disorder in reading, written expression and/or mathematics. Our services are offered when they will make a significant difference in the educational placement or outcome for the child.

#### 2. Who do you evaluate?

We evaluate children with suspected academic learning disorders in reading, written expression and/or mathematics who are between the ages of 5 and 14, live in the state of Texas, and are proficient English speakers.

#### 3. What do you evaluate?

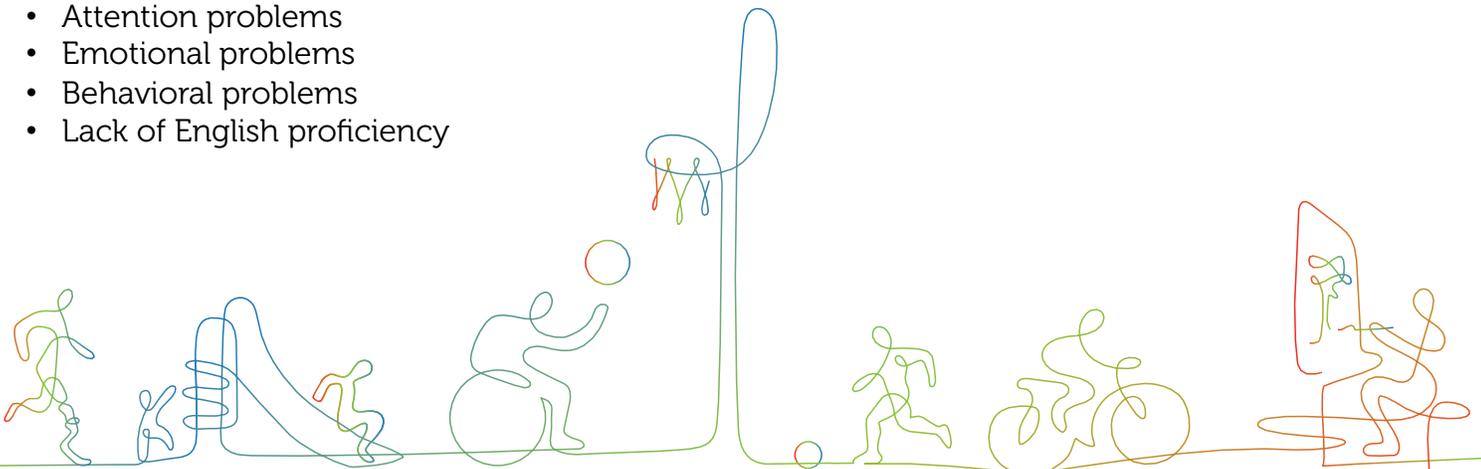
Our evaluation varies depending on the child's needs. Tests of intelligence, spoken language and academic achievement involving reading, writing, and mathematics may be administered. If you are mostly concerned about inattention, sadness, worry or negative behavior, please consult with your child's primary care physician for evaluation to address these issues. We do consider the impact of inattention, mood and negative behavior symptoms on learning during the evaluation.

For children whose first language is not English, we will need documentation of academic English language proficiency.

#### 4. What do you NOT evaluate?

We are unable to evaluate children whose learning difficulties are primarily related to:

- Autism spectrum disorders
- Low cognitive ability
- Hearing or vision impairment
- Attention problems
- Emotional problems
- Behavioral problems
- Lack of English proficiency



In addition, we do not offer evaluation for the following situations/concerns:

- Classroom and test accommodations
- Three-year re-evaluations for special education or private schools
- Gifted and talented eligibility
- Entrance into private schools
- Need for unproven therapies such as colored overlays
- Controversial conditions, like sensory integration disorder or auditory processing disorder

**5. If public school educators have plans to evaluate my child, would it be helpful to get a second opinion through the Center for Dyslexia?**

If the school test results are inconclusive or you have unanswered questions, consultation services through the Center for Dyslexia may be considered. Additional testing is not required if previous test results support your child's need for educational services and address your concerns.

**6. What services do you provide for children who are home schooled?**

Diagnostic services are offered for children who are being taught in the home if, like children receiving school-based instruction, they have a suspected academic learning disorder. Our resources are not designed to recommend teaching techniques or specific curricula for children in home-based education.

*Requesting Diagnostic Services for your Child*

**7. How do I apply to have my child evaluated through the Center for Dyslexia? The following application packet is required:**

- A completed Patient Referral Form with the required physician referral and signature on the back.
- All requested information. Refer to the Education Background and School Related Information page that accompanies the application.
- Providing all of the above information will help us process your child's application as quickly as possible.



**8. Why does my child's doctor need to sign the Patient Referral for evaluation in the Center for Dyslexia?**

As developmental pediatric specialists, Center for Dyslexia professionals are committed to the Medical Home model of patient care. The Medical Home is the partnership between the patient, family and primary care physician. The Medical Home is the source for continuous, comprehensive and coordinated care. While specialists do not provide these services, your child's doctor is responsible for offering this important kind of patient care. Medical specialists cooperate with the Medical Home to provide needed support through appropriate services. The best patient care and outcomes are offered through the Medical Home model where the patient and family are the focal point.

**9. Why do you need my child's teacher(s) to complete forms? Why do you need information from my child's school?**

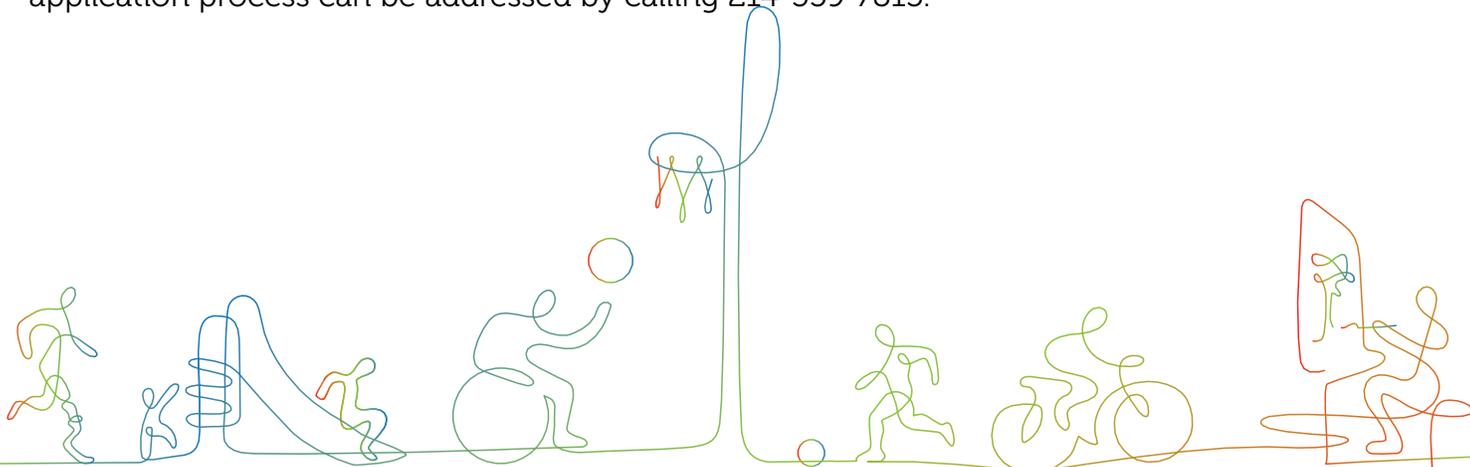
Center for Dyslexia clinicians use a high standard of diagnostic care. Test scores alone are insufficient when making a learning disorder diagnosis. The child's history of school performance and observations from teachers who work with the child regularly are essential to consider the presence of a learning disorder. Center for Dyslexia diagnostic team members create testing assessments that are specific to the child's needs based on this information. We use our expertise to understand the child's history of learning symptoms and testing to confirm the diagnosis.

**10. Will the information I send with the application be returned?**

Please submit copies, rather than originals, of anything you wish to keep. The information you provide will not be returned.

**11. What happens after I apply?**

The application committee will review the application packet you have provided. If additional information is required, you will receive either a phone call or letter that explains what is needed before eligibility can be determined. If the application committee decides that our services will address your child's needs, you will receive an approval letter. A separate mailing will include your child's appointment date and time. Additional questions regarding the application process can be addressed by calling 214-559-7815.



**12. What if the application committee determines that my child would not benefit from Center for Dyslexia testing?**

We are committed to helping all families who ask for assistance. The type of assistance we provide depends on the child's needs and our expertise. If your child does not have needs that can best be addressed using Center for Dyslexia testing, we will contact you by letter. We are available by phone (214-559-7815) to guide you to other resources that may be helpful for your child.

*If Your Child's Application Is Approved*

**13. Will there be multiple visits?**

Two types of appointments are presently offered in the Center, an assessment appointment and a consultation appointment. Most often children evaluated in our Center are scheduled for both appointments.

**14. How long will it take to get an appointment?**

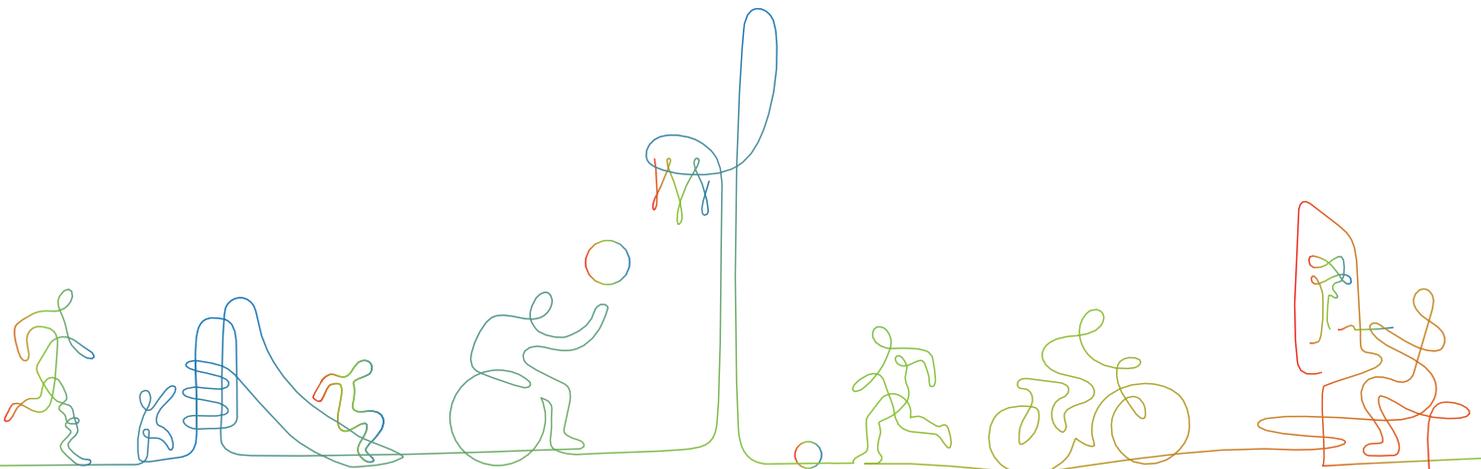
The average time between the application approval and the appointment date is currently 7 - 8 weeks. Information regarding your child's appointment will be sent through the mail approximately two to three weeks before the appointment date. The enclosed parent and teacher questionnaires/forms must be completed before your child's appointment.

**15. How do I change my child's appointment?**

Call our appointment scheduler at 214-559-7815, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30p.m.

**16. Do you charge for academic learning disorder assessment?**

The Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders operates through the generosity of many friends of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. There is no charge for academic diagnostic services provided by the Center for Dyslexia.



**17. Where is the hospital located? Where is the Center for Dyslexia within the hospital?**

The hospital is located at 2222 Welborn Street in Dallas, Texas. Once you arrive at the hospital, follow these directions to the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders: Turn onto Welborn Street from Maple Avenue or onto Scottish Rite Way from Oak Lawn. Follow green signs past stop sign and main hospital and turn left into the West parking garage. You may park on the first floor in the spaces marked "Patient Parking." Take the garage elevator to the 3rd floor marked "skybridge." Walk across the skybridge and follow "Center for Dyslexia" signs to the elevator ("C" elevator). In this building, you are on the 2nd floor. Take the "C" elevator to the fourth floor. Turn right into the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia.

**18. If my child has attention problems, should I address this issue before my child's evaluation?**

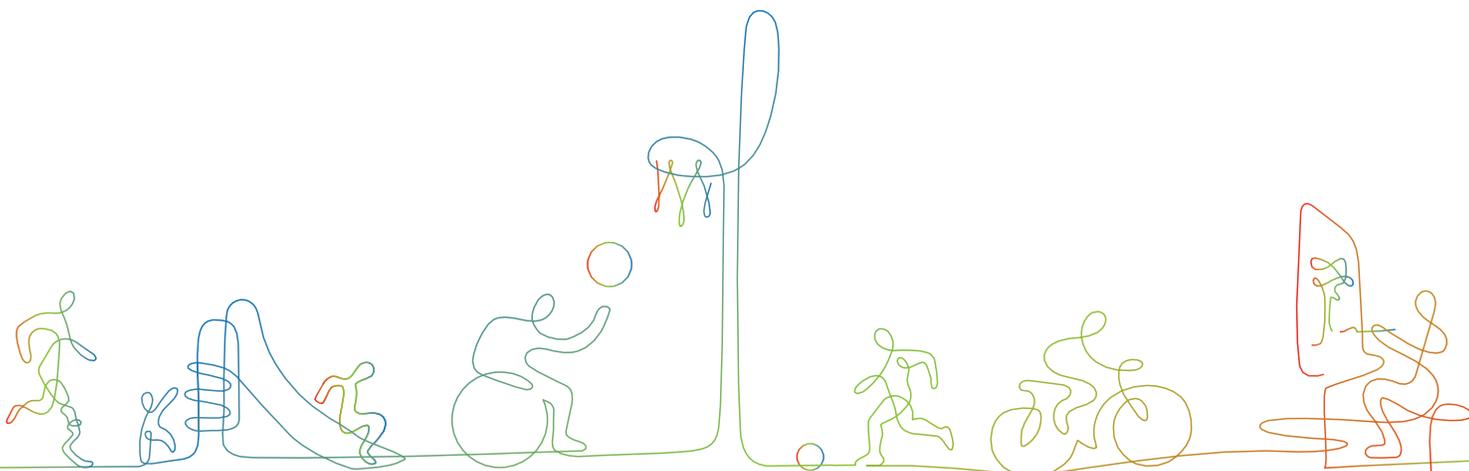
The best learning evaluations are done when inattention problems have been addressed before academic testing is given. When a child's application is eligible for Center for Dyslexia testing services, our clinicians will request that inattention symptoms be evaluated before the child's appointment. In cases when we evaluate for a learning disorder and the information from a child's parent and teacher suggests inattention symptoms, a diagnosis of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD or "ADD") will be considered.

**19. If AD/HD is diagnosed, will you provide medication management?**

Resources for medication management are not included in the services provided by the Center. Your child's referring physician will receive a copy of our diagnostic report. Together you may choose to begin medical management or seek the services of a physician specializing in the treatment of children with AD/HD.

**20. What types of tests will be given to my child?**

Standardized tests are used and are chosen depending on your child's age, academic concerns, and performance observations during the assessment appointment. Tests are available to measure academic skills and cognitive ability and to screen spoken language and visual-motor development as needed.



**21. How long does the assessment take?**

The amount of time for the assessment appointment will vary from two to four hours depending on the child's age, academic concerns and performance observations during the assessment appointment.

**22. How long does the consultation take?**

Although the typical consultation appointment takes about two hours, we ask you to allow four hours for this visit. We want to make sure we have plenty of time to answer all questions you have about your child. Sometimes, this means your appointment may start later than expected because we are answering another family's questions.

**23. Will you be able to provide a diagnosis so my child can receive services and accommodations in school?**

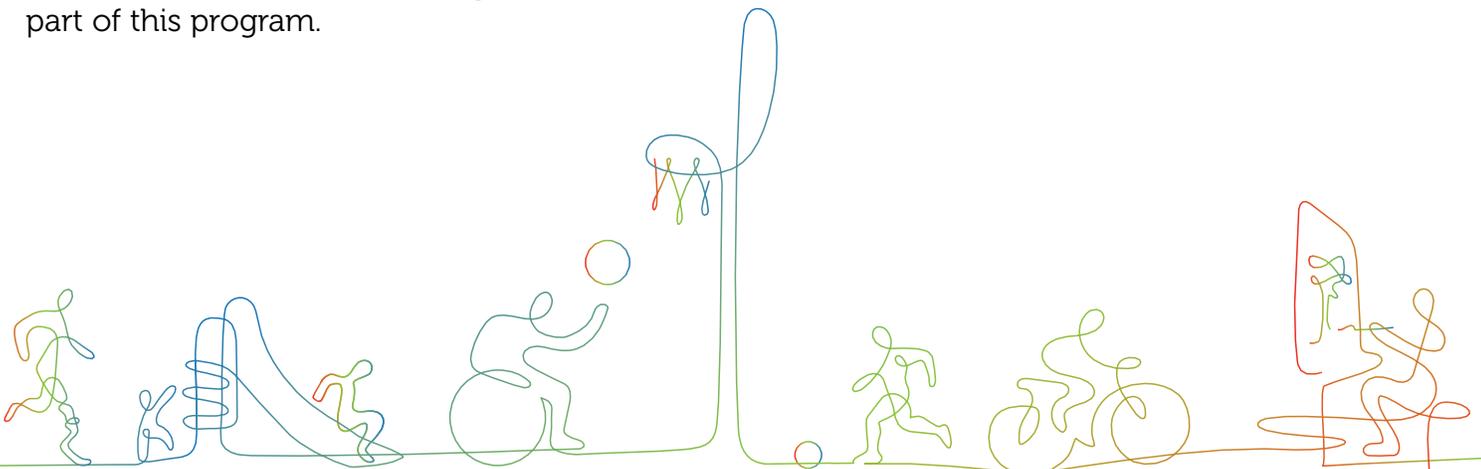
We encourage you to share our written diagnostic report with educators at your child's school. Public school educators must consider the evaluation results but are not required to follow the recommendations of Center for Dyslexia or any outside diagnostic service.

**24. When should I expect to receive results of the evaluation?**

Results will be discussed and a brief summary report will be provided during your child's consultation appointment. This initial report will include diagnoses and recommendations to help you take the next steps to address your child's needs. A more detailed report will be mailed to you and the referring physician approximately four to six weeks following the consultation appointment.

**25. Will my child receive intervention at the Center for Dyslexia?**

If your child is diagnosed to have dyslexia and does not have access to public school or private dyslexia services, participation in the Center for Dyslexia laboratory program may be considered. The education team makes the final decision regarding a child's participation in the program. It is a two year commitment where there is agreement between parents and school educators that your child will be released during the day to participate in this program. Aside from specialized reading instruction, your child would be required to continue receiving educational services in their regular school environment. A full academic curriculum is not a part of this program.



### *Follow-Up*

#### **26. My child was evaluated at the Center for Dyslexia. Do you provide re-evaluations?**

At your request, a re-evaluation may be offered if new academic concerns have surfaced since the initial evaluation, when your child has not responded to the treatment recommended or if an "at-risk" diagnosis was made. Please contact the Center for a re-evaluation application and additional information.

#### **27. If my child has been previously served in the Center for Dyslexia, how do I request a copy of the report?**

Please contact our health information management department at 214-559-7455 and request a copy of the report. When a patient has reached 18 years or older, they must request the report themselves.

### *Contacting Us*

#### **28. When is the best time to call if I have additional questions?**

Please call 214-559-7815. Our phones are answered Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.. If you call after business hours, please leave a detailed message and the best phone number to reach you. We will return your call as soon as possible.

#### **29. Where can I find information about dyslexia identification and services in Texas public schools?**

Comprehensive information including frequently asked questions, definition, effective instruction, Texas dyslexia law, suggestions for parents and teachers, and recommended reading can be found in Dyslexia Defined.

