



Assessments with SPELD NSW

SPELD NSW offers psycho-educational and educational assessments for children, adolescents, and adults.

What Assessments of Learning Difficulties does SPELD NSW offer?

SPELD NSW offers two assessments: a Psycho-educational Assessment and an Educational Assessment.

Psycho-educational Assessment

The Psycho-educational Assessment is generally requested to identify a person's areas of difficulty in literacy and/or numeracy and their cognitive abilities and processing skills.

A diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disorder in reading (Dyslexia), a Specific Learning Disorder in written expression (previously known as Dysgraphia), or a Specific Learning Disorder in mathematics (Dyscalculia) can be made (if appropriate) as part of this assessment.

Before a diagnosis of a specific learning disorder can be made, a child being assessed must have received at least six months of intervention focused on improving their skills in their academic area of difficulty.

This minimum six-month intervention can include targeted instruction from a specialist tutor or allied health professional, in-school intervention by a learning support teacher in small groups or one-on-one, and (in some circumstances) a parent at home. Extra support in the classroom to assist the child in completing curriculum activities is not considered a targeted intervention. Please let us know if you would like to discuss whether the intervention or additional support your child has received is sufficient for them to be considered for a diagnosis of a specific learning disorder.

If you are enquiring about an assessment for an adult, the six months of intervention may not be necessary. Please let us know if you would like to discuss if this applies to you.



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Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Assessment

If there are concerns about a child or adult's attention skills or executive functioning, they can take part in an ADHD assessment, in addition to the Psycho-educational Assessment. The aim of this evaluation is to determine if there are particular areas of difficulty in attention and/or executive functioning that could be impacting on the client's academic progress and outcomes. A diagnosis of ADHD can be made (if appropriate) as part of this assessment.

As part of the diagnostic process, a clinical interview will be undertaken with the parent/caregiver (for school-aged clients) or adult client to determine the presence of ADHD symptoms that the client is currently experiencing. Parents and teachers will be invited to complete standardised rating scales, or in the case of adult clients, self-report ratings, to profile the client's behavioural and emotional symptoms across domains, such as home, school, work, and the community. Finally, the client will participate in standardised measures of attention/executive functioning in the clinic.

Educational Assessment

If your child has not yet had 6 months of intervention in their academic area of difficulty, you may wish to consider an Educational Assessment to better understand their particular areas of difficulty in literacy and/or numeracy and to plan for intervention and support for your child. Educational Assessments are available for school-aged children only.

A diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disorder is not available from an Educational Assessment.

If your child completes an Educational Assessment and then goes on to complete six months of intervention in their academic area of difficulty, they can then undertake a **Diagnostic Review** (a shorter follow-up assessment) to determine if they meet the criteria for a diagnosis of a specific learning disorder.

SPELD NSW also offers **Consultations** with our Clinic team focusing on planning for interventions, adjustments, and assessments.

Please see our [website](#) for more information about the available assessments.

SPELD NSW does not offer diagnoses for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Language Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Depressive Disorders, or Developmental Coordination Disorder. However, assessments can include screeners of students' language skills, behaviour, well-being.

Who conducts assessments at SPELD NSW?

Assessments are conducted by a team of highly skilled Clinicians and Registered Psychologists. All clinicians and psychologists working with SPELD NSW have extensive knowledge of literacy, numeracy, learning, and development.



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What tests are included in SPELD NSW Assessments?

The Psycho-educational Assessment includes a comprehensive measure of intellectual functioning if no recent cognitive assessment has been conducted.

Both the Psycho-educational Assessment and the Educational Assessment include standardised academic achievement tests.

- Assessments focusing on literacy skills include measures of single-word and passage reading accuracy and fluency, reading comprehension, spelling accuracy, and written expression, such as sentence or paragraph construction skills. A language screener, as well as measures of phonological processing and handwriting speed, are included.
- Assessments focusing on numeracy skills include measures of number sense, and standardised achievement tests of numerical operations, mathematical reasoning, and calculation fluency, and a language screener.
- Assessments focusing on ADHD symptoms include a clinical interview, standardised rating scales of behaviour and emotional functioning, as well as standardised measures of attention/executive functioning.

Most people, including children, find the various assessment tasks quite interesting and enjoyable.

How long are the assessment appointments?

The times provided below for each assessment appointment are only estimates, the actual time depends on the individual's response to the tests administered.

- Psycho-educational Assessment of Literacy or Psycho-educational Assessment of Numeracy - completed in one 3-hour session by a SPELD NSW Psychologist and Clinician
- Psycho-educational Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy - completed in two sessions of 1.5 hours and 2.5-3 hours by a SPELD NSW Psychologist and Clinician
- Educational Assessment of Literacy or Educational Assessment of Numeracy - completed in one 2-hour session by a SPELD NSW Clinician
- Educational Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy - completed in one 3-hour session by a SPELD NSW Clinician
- Diagnostic Review - completed in one 2-hour session by a SPELD NSW Psychologist and Clinician
- ADHD Assessment – completed in one 60-minute session by a SPELD NSW Psychologist (in addition to a Psycho-educational Assessment)

How is information collected by SPELD NSW in assessments handled?

All information collected remains confidential and is handled following [SPELD NSW's Privacy Policy](#) and only appropriate and standardised assessment tools and methods are used.



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What is included in the Assessment Report?

A comprehensive report is provided within six weeks after the assessment with details of the individual's strengths and weaknesses in literacy and/or numeracy, evidence-based strategies for remediation, and suggestions for appropriate accommodations.

Where are assessments conducted by SPELD NSW?

SPELD NSW offers assessments face-to-face in our Parramatta office or online via Zoom.

Online assessments are available for clients in regional and rural areas and for clients in Sydney who have a disability or illness that makes it difficult to attend the SPELD NSW office.

As the ADHD assessment involves a clinical interview and the administration of standardised attention/executive functioning measures, testing is completed face-to-face.

What are the fees for an assessment with SPELD NSW?

Current information about the fees for assessments is included on our [website](#). SPELD NSW is a charity, and we try to keep the fees for our assessments as low as possible.

The fees cover the costs for the assessment, preparation of the assessment report, and a short follow-up consultation with the psychologist or clinician to discuss the report with you.

Current Fees are set out below for your reference:

- Psycho-educational Assessment of Literacy and Psycho-educational Assessment of Numeracy - \$1,425 for Non-Members; \$1,385 for SPELD NSW Members
- Psycho-educational Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy - \$1,650 for Non-Members; \$1,610 for SPELD NSW Members
- Diagnostic Review - \$900 for Non-Members; \$860 for SPELD NSW Members
- Educational Assessment of Literacy and Educational Assessment of Numeracy - \$825 for Non-Members; \$875 for SPELD NSW Members
- Educational Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy - \$1,050 for Non-Members; \$1,010 for SPELD NSW Members
- ADHD Assessment – \$300 (must be completed with a Psycho-educational Assessment)

If you are a Health Care Card holder we offer a \$200 discount on the assessment fees.

Please note that SPELD NSW is not registered as a NDIS provider and does not have a private health fund provider number.



Assessments with SPELD NSW

How long is the wait for assessments with SPELD NSW?

Currently, the SPELD NSW Assessment Clinic is booking assessments with a one to two-month lead time.

How do I make an assessment booking with SPELD NSW?

If you are ready to book an assessment with SPELD NSW, please complete **this booking form**.

We will then send you an email with some forms for you, your child's teacher (for school aged children), and any tutors to complete. We will ask you to return the completed forms plus some additional paperwork (including school reports and previous assessments).

Once we receive the fully completed paperwork, we will contact you to book a date for the assessment. If you have difficulties completing the paperwork, please let us know, we can assist you in completing the forms.

The SPELD NSW Clinicians will review all the information provided by you and may be in touch for further information.

What if I have further questions about assessment or learning difficulties for me or my child?

If you have any remaining questions about assessments or learning difficulties for you or your child, please email SPELD NSW and let us know that you would like to speak to one of our InfoLine Team.

Our team can have a longer one-on-one phone conversation with you to discuss your questions and provide information or resources to support you.