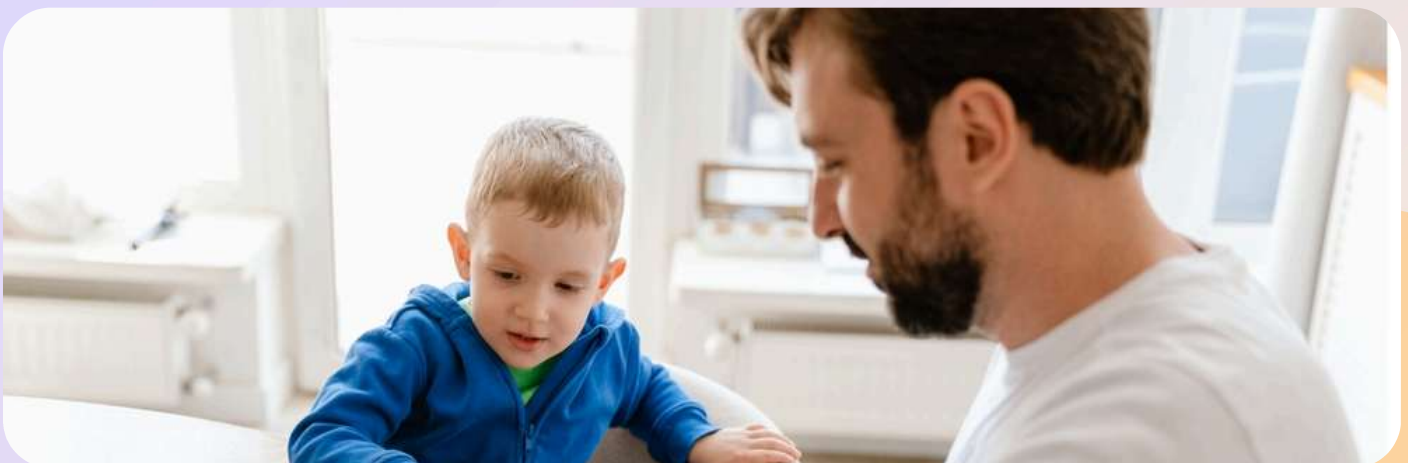


Children & young people

Children and young people's neurodevelopmental assessments.

Oakdale offers neurodevelopmental assessments for autism, ADHD or both combined.



ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

Expert, **compassionate**, clear

Oakdale offers neurodevelopmental assessments for autism, ADHD or both combined. This guide will help you to understand all the parts of the assessment, what will happen and who will be involved. Assessment appointments are carried out in accordance with NICE guidelines (National Institute of Clinical Excellence).



Autism assessment

For autism assessments, all our practitioners are qualified and experienced in delivering the ADOS-2 (The Autism diagnostic Observation Schedule-2).



ADHD assessment

For example, we may invite young people for a Young DIVA-5 semi structured observation / interview. Depending on age and verbal ability, this may be a mix of play-based tasks and questions, or a flexible, play based assessment for younger children.



Our clinical team

Our team includes Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Senior Mental Health Practitioners who work collaboratively to provide comprehensive assessment and support.

Getting started

1

Referral received by Oakdale

2

Initial contact form

You will receive a short form to fill in. This provides us with up to date contact details and important information that will help us support access to the assessment.

3

Waiting list

Up to date information about our estimated waiting times from referral is on our website. If anything changes we will contact you. (Not applicable to self-funded / private clients.)

4

Information gathering questionnaires

Your child / young person's assessment begins by gathering up to date information. An online questionnaire is sent to parent carers to complete. If you would prefer a paper copy, this can be arranged instead. Completing the questionnaire tells us about your child / young person's current circumstances, their background and gives you a chance to share their strengths as well as your concerns and worries. Responses are recorded in electronic clinical records and are an important part of our assessment process. If you need help with the questions, we encourage you to seek support from someone familiar with your child/young person, such as a relative, teacher, or health professional. A questionnaire is also sent out to your child / young person's education or childcare setting so they can share their views on how your child / young person is doing there and about how they interact with their peers. If your child is home-schooled, we usually try to gain this view from another involved professional, if possible. Any further relevant reports, letters or information from their education or childcare setting and other professionals involved are also requested at this stage.

Meeting the team



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Triage review

The information you and other professionals have provided is reviewed and you might be contacted for more details. Then, appointments are booked. Combined assessments are tailored to the individual — see our website FAQs for more.

6

Parent carer conversation

An appointment with one of our clinical team. Usually virtual, for parent carers only. Where both parents are involved we ask that they attend together. A chance to share developmental history and ask questions.

7

Observational assessment appointment

This takes place face to face with your child / young person in one of our centres.

Aged 14 yrs+

If your child or young person is aged 14 yrs+ and is able to understand, it is important that they are aware of the purpose of their assessment. Please make sure you speak to them beforehand.

Being accompanied

Children under 16, or those who are vulnerable or lack capacity, must be accompanied to the centre by a parent carer. Mobile phone use is not allowed during appointments.

Additional appointments or further information

At Oakdale, each assessment is unique because we tailor to the individual child / young person. Some cases require more appointments and observations such as a school observation, cognitive assessment or Qb check. For a childcare / education setting observation, one of our team visits your child / young person's setting and observes how they interact with others in the place they are in. The Qb Check is delivered in one of our clinics and is the only CE marked and FDA approved aid for assessing and evaluating ADHD. It is designed to give objective and unbiased information to clinicians, supporting reliability in assessing ADHD. Cognitive assessments are occasionally offered to help us decide whether a child / young person's presentation is best explained by a diagnosis of autism and/or ADHD or whether something else might better explain the way they present.



Cognitive assessment

Formal assessments identifying strengths and areas of difficulty, using the Wechsler Intelligence Scales to assess concept formation, visual spatial processing, reasoning, memory and processing speed — no reading or writing required.

Adaptive behaviour (ABAS-3)

Oakdale also offers an assessment of adaptive behaviour using the ABAS-3, assessing functional skills for daily living: communication, community use, self-care, leisure, social, motor, functional academics, self-direction and health and safety.

Reaching an outcome

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Clinical review and assessment outcome

Once all of your child / young person's assessment appointments have been completed, the clinicians review all of the information that has been gathered. This includes information from interviews, observations, questionnaires and any reports provided by you, your child / young person's school or other professionals. The clinicians carefully consider this information alongside the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for autism and/or ADHD to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to reach a clinical decision. For many assessments, the clinicians are able to reach a conclusion through this clinical review. However, if the assessment is particularly complex or further discussion would be helpful, the case may be reviewed by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). This additional review helps to ensure that decisions are robust, evidence-based and made in your child / young person's best interests. Because some assessments require this additional review, there may be a short period between your child / young person's final appointment and your report being completed. If further information is needed before a decision can be reached, we will contact you to explain what is required and the next steps.



Receiving your report

Once the assessment has been completed, you will receive a written report explaining the outcome of the assessment, the evidence considered, and any recommendations for support. We understand that you may have questions after reading your report. If you would find it helpful, you will have the opportunity to book a telephone Feedback Appointment with one of the clinicians involved in your child / young person's assessment. This provides an opportunity to discuss the outcome, ask questions, and ensure you understand the findings and recommendations. For Right To Choose clients, we will send a copy of the report to your child / young person's GP. For Self-Funded / Private clients, we normally recommend that you share a copy of the report with your child / young person's GP and education / childcare setting.

"The clinician was clearly very skilled at her job in putting my child at ease and they had a great time in the assessment."

"I was nervous before the parental interview but I was really put at ease by the clinician who made the experience much better than I was expecting!"

Optional **feedback** appointment

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An optional telephone Feedback Appointment to talk through the outcome of the child / young person's assessment and ask any questions you may have. This is a telephone conversation for parent carers. For older children / young people it can be helpful for them to be present too. This appointment will take approximately 15 minutes.

During the appointment, you can:

- Ask questions about the assessment outcome, including how the clinicians reached their conclusion and how the diagnostic criteria were considered.
- Discuss anything in the report that you are unsure about or would like explained in more detail.
- Talk about how the findings relate to your child / young person's experiences and day-to-day life.
- If your child / young person has received an ADHD diagnosis, discuss whether a referral for a medication assessment may be appropriate, depending on their circumstances and the service available to them.

When your assessment report is emailed to you, it will include a form allowing you to request an optional Feedback Appointment.

Right to Choose (RTC) clients

You will receive an email confirming the date and a time slot within which your Feedback Appointment will take place. We are unable to offer alternative time slots for this appointment. The clinician will make two attempts to call you within your scheduled time slot. If you miss both of these calls, we are unfortunately unable to book a replacement appointment, and your child / young person will be discharged from our service.

"I think Oakdale has been absolutely amazing. Everyone has been helpful. You have been so kind and understanding and given me time to process the feedback. Thank you."

Self-Funded / Private clients

We will contact you by phone to arrange a convenient time slot, within which your Feedback Appointment will take place. The clinician will make two attempts to call you within your scheduled time slot. If you miss both of these calls, we are unfortunately unable to book a replacement appointment, and your child / young person will be discharged from our service.

"Thank you for being so helpful and approachable and making the whole experience a stress free and positive experience."

Questions before you start?

We're here to help, every step of the way.

[Book an appointment](#) ↗