

POTTS Dyspraxia/DCD Pre-assessment information

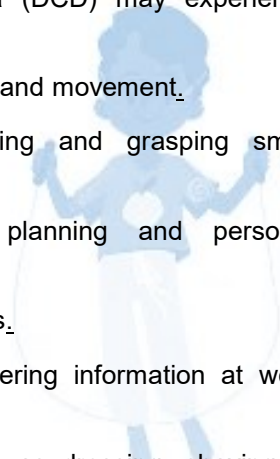


Presentation of Dyspraxia

Symptoms of dyspraxia (DCD) can vary in individuals and may change over time. Although dyspraxia/DCD affects each individual differently, some of the common difficulties are listed below.

A person with dyspraxia (DCD) may experience differences with:

- Co-ordination, balance and movement_
- Writing, typing, drawing and grasping small objects.
- Time management, planning and personal organisational skills_
- Implementing new skills_
- Thinking and remembering information at work and home_
- Daily living skills such as dressing, shaving or preparing meals.
- Social situations and dealing with emotions.



What is Dyspraxia?

Dyspraxia, or Developmental Coordination Development (DCD) as it is also known, is a condition that affects fine and gross motor coordination (organisation of bigger and smaller movements) which can affect the performance of day-to-day activities (at home, in school, during play).

Dyspraxia, or Developmental Coordination Disorder, is more common than you would think with research showing that around 5-6% of the population (or 1 in 20 people) have dyspraxia.

Dyspraxia is different for everyone, with each person demonstrating their own strengths and challenges.



What If my child shows characteristics of DCD?

If you have concerns that a child or individual may present with some of the symptoms associated with DCD, completion of a screener or checklist may be beneficial. This can give an indication of potential DCD characteristics being present.

For children under the age of 16, the Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire (DCDQ) may be a suitable screener.

This can be found here: www.dcdq.ca



Preparing for the day of assessment

How long will the assessment be?

An initial call will be conducted prior to most assessments. This call will be completed by phone or video call and take approximately **30 minutes** if information is shared in advance.

The face-to-face assessment will take **60-90 minutes** with **the potential for** additional discussion post assessment.



What is included in the assessment process?

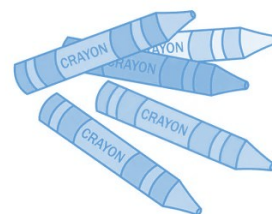
The assessment process will include some of the following areas:

- A thorough medical and developmental history
- Initial pre-assessment call
- Clinical examination
- Motor assessment
- Functional assessment
- Review of handwriting posture and grasp
- Discussion with the child and parents and, if required, others such as teachers and other health professionals regarding the impact of the child's motor skills on daily living skills, school, leisure and participation.

What should I bring on the day?

For the assessment:

- Pencil/ Pen the child uses every day in school for writing
- Colouring pencils/crayons/ markers used every day in school
- Scissors used in school (if other than safety scissors)
- Pencil case used in school
- Glasses or visual aids (if required)
- Hearing aids or audio equipment used in school (if required)



For your child:

- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for physical activity
- Water or drink in a closed container
- Snacks if required
- Fidget or other supportive items if required



Preparing for the day of assessment

What should I send in advance of the assessment?

Necessary:

Consent and cancellation forms

If available:

- Previous assessment or clinical reports (where relevant)
- Occupational Therapy
- Other professions such as Speech and Language, Psychology, etc.
- A sample of handwriting
- School report/IEP
- Teacher questionnaire

Please send these documents securely to pottsdocs@dyspraxia.ie

What are the criteria for diagnosis?

For a diagnosis of dyspraxia (DCD) to be made, you will usually need to meet all of the following criteria:

1. Motor skills are significantly below the age-appropriate level expected and opportunities the child has had to learn and use these skills.
2. Lack of motor skill significantly and persistently affects the child's day-to-day activities and achievements at school.



3. The symptoms first developed during an early stage of development.
4. Lack of motor skills cannot be explained by long-term delay in all areas (general learning disability) or rare medical conditions such as cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy.

An OT can assess for criteria 1, 2 and 3, though a medical officer (GP, Paediatrician or Neurologist) will need to rule out any of the conditions highlighted in criteria 4 to complete the diagnosis.