

Your child's developmental assessment

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

What is a developmental assessment?

Your child has been referred for a developmental assessment by

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The assessment will help us to have a much better idea of your child's strengths and difficulties.

How do we do it?

We use a system called **Griffith's Mental Development Scales - Extended Revised (GMDS-ER)**, which has been established as a useful tool to assess child development since 1954. It was fully revised and updated in 2006.

This test assesses the development of children on a number of scales based on natural activities of walking, talking and playing. Most children thoroughly enjoy it. The equipment consists of simple puzzles, building blocks and other familiar toys and objects.

There will also be an opportunity for you as a care-giver to say what you have observed about your child's development.

What areas of development will be assessed?

- **Motor skills** – This includes the ability to balance and co-ordinate, and to control movements.
- **Personal-social** – How the child copes with activities of daily living, their level of independence and how they interact with others.
- **Language** – How the child uses and understands language.
- **Eye and hand co-ordination** – The child's fine motor skills, their ability to perform a difficult task with hands skilfully so that it looks easy (manual dexterity) and visual monitoring skills.
- **Performance** – Speed of working and precision.

- **Practical reasoning** – The child’s ability to solve practical problems (only if aged over two years).

How long will the assessment take?

Usually the assessment takes about 90 minutes. But it depends a lot on the child’s engagement and interest, and sometimes can take more than two hours. We try to complete GMDS-ER in one session, but it is sometimes necessary to take two sessions, with the second session arranged within a week.

Further information

If you have any questions, worries or concerns regarding the assessment, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dr Farah Tanvir
Speciality Grade Community Paediatrician

Telephone: **01271 341512**

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple. Alternatively, it may be possible for us to arrange an appointment in your area.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of the ward staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

‘Patient Opinion’ comments forms are on all wards or online at www.patientopinion.org.uk.

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