Child Development Centre
Patient information leaflet – The Mult-Disciplinary Assessment Group (MDA)



Contents

The MDA Group 1
Initial Contact 2
Who will be involved? 2
What will happen during the session(s)? 3
Do parents/carers stay with their child? 3
What happens at the end of the assessment? 4
What about after the assessment? 4
How to contact us… 5
MDA Group Staff 5
Your experience matters 5

The MDA Group

Your child has been offered a place on our Assessment group, by your Paediatrician. This has been arranged because they have identified that your child may have developmental difficulties that need further assessment and support.

Initial Contact

The Group Coordinator will contact you to gather some background information and talk to you informally about the group.

This will provide a good opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have.

We will then give you the dates and times of the sessions, and detail some of the appointments your child may have during the assessment period.

Who will be involved?

You will meet several people during the assessment. Speech and Language Therapy Practitioners will work closely with your child, and there will be other professionals involved such as a Specialist Early Years Teacher; Paediatrician; and Specialist Speech and Language Therapist.

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist – Assesses children's communication needs, provides specialist recommendations, and plans support to develop speech, language, and communication skills.

Speech and Language Therapy Practitioners - Work under the guidance of Speech and Language Therapists to deliver therapy activities, monitor progress, and support children and families.

Specialist Early Years Teacher – Supports young children with additional needs by providing advice, strategies, and targeted teaching to help them access learning and development opportunities.

Paediatrician – A doctor specialising in child development and health who assesses, diagnoses, and manages medical and developmental needs.



What will happen during the session(s)?

Assessment will take place over the course of up to 1-3 sessions, each lasting 2 hours, 09:45 – 11:45.

Therapists and professionals will observe your child at play and will also undertake a number of structured developmental assessment tasks with your child.

Do parents/carers stay with their child?

Parents/carers are welcome to stay with their child for some of the start of the session. We also like to see how your child settles without you once they have become used to the group environment.



What happens at the end of the assessment?

Shortly after your child's final session you will be contacted to make arrangements for a feedback consultation with the Paediatrician.

Their developmental needs will be highlighted and their support needs identified. Recommendations may be made to help support their future needs.



What about after the assessment?

If one of the findings is that your child needs support in a particular area, then your child may be offered a place in one of the therapy groups at the Child Development Centre. These groups will address the particular need your child has.

The staff in the group will be happy to discuss things with you. For some children we may recommend a nursery placement with appropriate support provided in that environment.

Please talk to a member of staff if there is anything that concerns you about your child's assessment at any time.

We will do our best to answer your queries or will refer you to someone who can. We look forward to having your child with us.

How to contact us…

The Child Development Centre, Ross Road, Hereford, HR2 7RL

Telephone: 01432 356 438

Fax: 01432 341 612

Tamara West (CDC Group and Outreach Coordinator):

07813528483

MDA Group Staff

Specialist Paediatrician

Laura Michael – Specialist Early Years Teacher

Darcy Moseley – Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Jem Davies – Speech and Language Therapy Associate Practitioner

Liese Brady - Speech and Language Therapy Associate Practitioner

Tamara West – MDA Group Coordinator

Your experience matters

We aim to provide the care that we would want for ourselves, our families and friends. If you think something could have been done differently, please speak to the department or ward staff. You can contact them by calling the hospital switchboard and asking for the relevant department. Further information about our services is available on our website:

- **Phone (hospital switchboard):** 01432 355444
- Wye Valley NHS Trust

This leaflet is available in alternative formats. If you need this please contact the Patient Experience Team using the telephone number or email below.

After using our services we may ask for your opinion about your experience. Your feedback helps us to make things better for all our patients.
You can also contact the Patient Experience Team by:

- **Phone:** 01432 256024 (please leave an answerphone message)
- **Email**: PALS@wvt.nhs.uk