Guide 2:

Using the Tutor & Assessor Directory to Find a Specialist Assessor

This guide aims to help parents and carers choose a dyslexia or dyscalculia assessor for their child or young person from the Tutor List.

What is the Tutor & Assessor Directory?

The Tutor & Assessor Directory helps you find tutors/assessors offering specialist support for dyslexia and/or dyscalculia. Some tutors also provide diagnostic assessments, and so it can be used to help find an assessor.

The Tutor & Assessor Directory is not a recommendation service. Being listed does not mean that a tutor/assessor has been endorsed by the BDA. An assessment should be carried out by a suitably qualified assessor, not simply a tutor.

Before engaging an assessor, you should carry out your own checks and talk directly to the tutor about your child or young person's needs.

Looking for an assessor already verified by the BDA?

If you would prefer to use an assessor who has been verified **by the BDA and meets our specific professional and safeguarding requirements**, you can explore the **BDA Assessment Service**.

Find out more about the BDA Assessment Service →
https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/assessments/diagnostic-assessments-2

Why do I need an assessment?

A diagnostic assessment can identify whether a child or adult has dyslexia or dyscalculia and provide recommendations for support.

What should I look for in an assessor?

Choosing an assessor is a big decision. As well as checking that you feel an individual assessor is a good match for you or your child or young person, we

would recommend carrying out the following checks. These are all reasonable things to ask, and high-quality practitioners will understand why you ask them.

A professional directory like the this can be a useful starting point, but it is important to carry out your own checks as well. The BDA recommends checking all of these areas to get a full picture of whether the assessor is suitable.

We recommend checking that the assessor has:

- An appropriate specialist assessment qualification
- A current Assessment Practising Certificate (APC)
- Current AMBDA accreditation

What is an APC?

An Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) shows that an assessor has specialist assessment training and keeps their professional knowledge up to date.

APCs must be renewed every three years.

What is AMBDA?

AMBDA recognises professional competence in specialist teaching and assessment.

You can ask to see the assessor's current AMBDA and APC certificate, both of which should be dated within the last three years.

Other important checks

Professional membership

Professional membership provides an additional indication that a practitioner maintains a relationship with a recognised professional organisation, such as the BDA, PATOSS or Dyslexia Action.

Ask which professional body they belong to and whether their membership is current. To join the BDA Tutor & Assessor Directory, assessors must have the relevant BDA accreditation to assess and be a **current** BDA Professional Member.

Professional membership can be helpful, but it is not a guarantee of quality or suitability.

DBS check

Ask whether the assessor has a current Enhanced DBS check and whether it is appropriate for working with children. It is reasonable to ask for evidence of the DBS check.

Insurance

Check that they hold professional indemnity insurance covering assessment work.

References

You may wish to ask an assessor whether they can provide professional references or testimonials.

Experience

Ask about their experience assessing:

- Children of your child or young person's age
- Dyslexia and/or dyscalculia
- Learners with similar needs
- Adults

Questions to ask before booking

Who will carry out the assessment?

Ask for the assessor's name, qualifications and accreditation.

What type of assessment is it?

Check whether it is:

- A full diagnostic assessment
- An assessment to inform teaching
- A screening assessment

These are different services and provide different outcomes.

Will the report meet my needs?

Tell the assessor why you need the report and ask whether it is suitable for that purpose.

Do not assume every report can be used for every purpose.

What are the fees and timescales?

- Ask what the assessment costs
- Ask when it will take place
- Ask when you will receive the report

Assessor Checklist

Before booking, check that the assessor has:

☐ Specialist assessment qualification

☐ Current APC

☐ Current AMBDA

☐ Current professional membership

☐ Current Enhanced DBS check

☐ Professional indemnity insurance

☐ Experience with your child's age group

☐ Experience relevant to your child's needs

☐ Explained what the report can and cannot be used for

☐ Clear fees and timescales

Remember

The Tutor & Assessor Directory helps you identify assessors, but it does not recommend individual practitioners. Always carry out your own checks and make sure the assessor is appropriately qualified and suitable for your child or young person, or yourself.