

What to Look For in a Dyslexia Assessor

It is important when booking a diagnostic assessment for dyslexia to ensure that the assessment is carried out by a professional who is suitably qualified. For those who are not booking an assessment through an organisation such as the British Dyslexia Association, this is even more important to bear in mind to ensure that your assessment and report are of the appropriate standard.

Below is some guidance for those seeking a diagnostic assessment with a **specialist teacher or other professional**.

In order to be able to diagnose dyslexia the individual carrying out an assessment should hold the following:

1. An Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) **if they are a specialist teacher assessor**. This needs to be current as this certificate requires renewal every 3 years.
2. **Specialist Teacher Assessors** should also hold a level 7 specialist qualification and ideally be a member of a professional body such as the BDA in which case they will hold what is known as AMBDA. Professional membership of such organisations as the BDA, PATOSS or The Dyslexia Guild mean that the assessor is obliged to undertake regular Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and keep up to date.
3. **All assessors** should also have DBS clearance and be able to provide evidence of this. The individual being assessed may be alone with the assessor during the assessment process so it makes sense to check this.
4. **All assessors** should also hold Professional Indemnity Insurance

Psychologists:

Where an educational or in some cases an occupational psychologist is carrying out the assessment they must be registered with a professional body such as HCPC, have DBS clearance and also hold professional indemnity insurance.

Workplace Needs Assessors:

A workplace needs assessor is an individual who comes to the workplace of the dyslexic individual to carry out an assessment to identify what reasonable adjustments, aids or adaptations might be helpful for a dyslexic employee in order for them to be supported and carry out their work role.

Such an assessment allows an employer to demonstrate that they are meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

A workplace needs assessor should be an individual who;

1. Has an excellent knowledge of dyslexia within the context of adults in the workplace and hold an appropriate qualification.
2. Has an excellent understanding of the parameters of the Equality Act and can interpret the concept of reasonable adjustments within the workplace
3. **All** BDA Workplace Needs Assessors have received specialist training in this area of work and hold appropriate qualifications.
4. **All** BDA Workplace Needs Assessors comply with the BDA's Code of Conduct for Workplace Needs Assessments.

ALL BDA assessors are checked to ensure that they all hold the above qualifications and meet these criteria, evidence of this is held on file with us. In addition BDA assessors are all subject to our own rigorous Quality Assurance processes to make sure that they are operating to highest levels of professional standards and undertake regular CPD.