

GDA PATHWAY: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

What is a GDA (Global Development Assessment)?

It is a clinic appointment with a doctor, who will perform an *initial assessment* of your child. The aim is to determine what difficulties your child is having, and how best we can support and help them. The initial assessment will last 1 hour.

Why has my child been referred?

Your child may have been referred for assessment for any of the following:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Developmental Delay
- Dyspraxia
- Cerebral Palsy

Your local SEND provision at the Early Years Provider, School or the School Nursing team can refer into the pathway. Your GP can also refer a child below the age of 2 years if they are concerned about a child's development.

What will happen whilst I wait for a General Development Assessment?

The General Development Assessment will be undertaken by the Consultant Community Pediatrician when there is an appropriate clinic available in Doncaster. This clinic will identify the early signs of presentation in your child. As a means of being transparent, this wait may be some months away. In the interim there are several organisations that can support yourself and your family:

Doncaster Local Offer: The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health, and social care. www.doncaster.gov.uk/LocalOffer

Doncaster Parents Voice: Doncaster Parents Voice (DPVoice) is run by parents of children with a variety of additional needs. They exist to support families with disabled children whenever they need them. Parents often make contact when they are at their most vulnerable and have no one to turn to. DPOVoice offer support, information, advocacy, advice, and peer support for families with similar issues.

Tel: 01302 637566 Email: Dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk

SENDIAS: Doncaster SENDIAS provides information, advice and support (IAS) to parents, carers, children and young people in relation to Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Disability and related health and social care issues.

Tel: 01302 736920 www.doncaster.gov.uk/SENDIAS

What will happen after the General Development Assessment?

Depending on the Consultant's assessment there are various possible outcomes:

- A further follow up appointment in the same clinic for further assessment or monitoring. They may also ask for more information from school or an Early Years setting.
- Referral to a more specialist service, therapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist or specialist community pathway such as ASD. As a means of being transparent this may involve a further wait for assessment.
- Discharged from the clinic with advice and guidance.

Before a referral is accepted to the GDA pathway there must be evidence that:

- 1) The early years provider, school or post-16 setting, has reviewed progress for a **minimum of two terms** (e.g. through a SENCO Plan or Individual Support Plan)
- 2) The School Nurse or Health Visitor has completed the GDA Health summary
- 3) There must be a referral form completed by the SENCO or School Nurse/ Health Visitor or Early Years Provider
- 4) Setting and Parent questionnaires are complete

Referrals sent without the above information will be returned



**Doncaster and Bassetlaw
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