

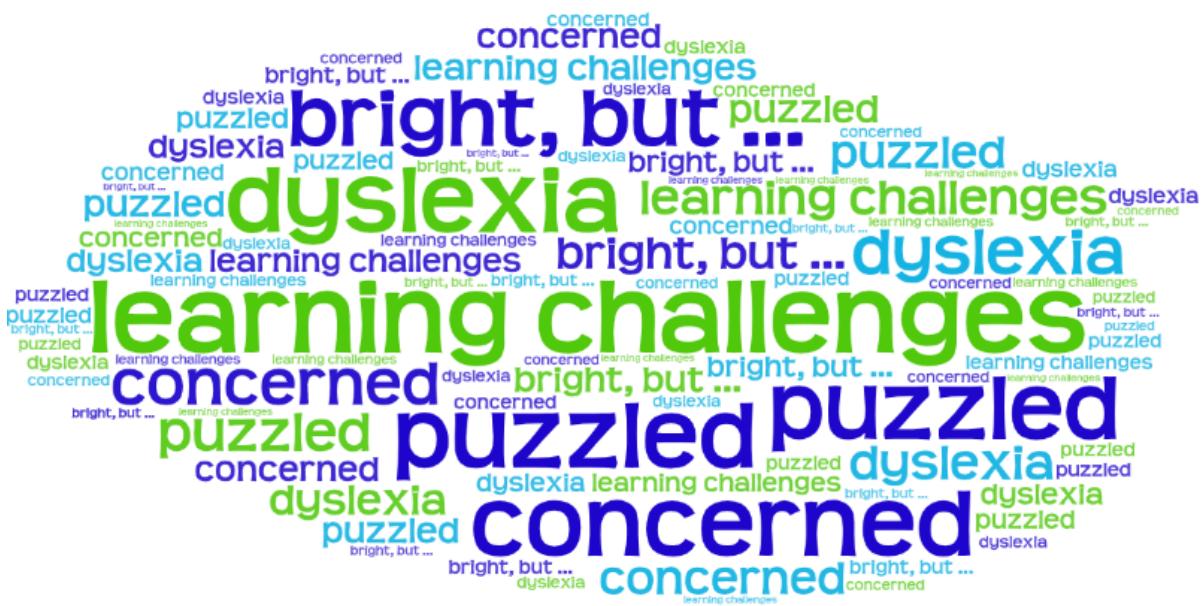


Pursuing Your Potential



Member of LDANZ
Learning Disabilities Association of NZ
www.ldanz.org.nz

Enquirer's Pack



First Floor, Civic Arcade, 37 Bank St, Whangarei	PO Box 1314, Whangarei 0140	admin@dyslexiaplus.org.nz www.dyslexiaplus.org.nz	09 430 0693
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Pursuing Your Potential

Who are we?

Please let us take this opportunity to let you know a little about ourselves.

Dyslexia PLUS is a not-for-profit association of parents, teachers, assessors and others who are interested in, and involved with, advancing the educational and general well-being of children and adults with specific learning disabilities. The organisation relies on membership and fundraising to maintain its services to the community.

Dyslexia PLUS is run by a group of volunteers (elected annually) who, along with our office liaison person (who works for us part time), seek to provide services for children and adults in our community with dyslexia / specific learning disabilities.

Dyslexia PLUS is a Member Organisation of the Learning Disabilities Association of NZ (LDANZ). It is registered with the Charities Commission and is an Incorporated Society.

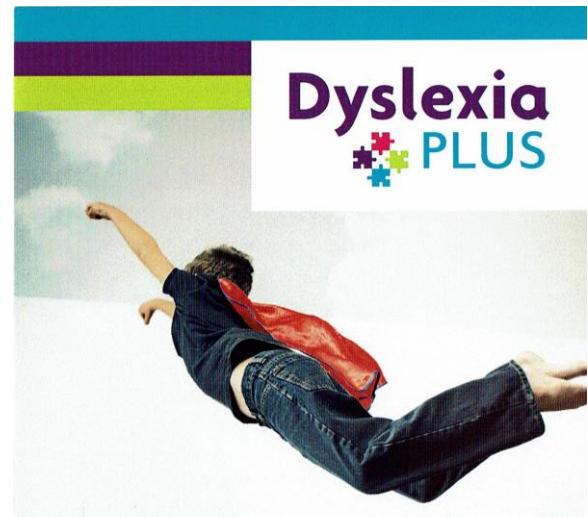
Dyslexia PLUS offers

- Professional assessment of dyslexia / specific learning disabilities
- Individual, tailor-made lessons for members
- Parent Support events
- Specialised Library Resources; members can buy keys to access this
- A newsletter each term

Our assessors and teachers are appropriately qualified and have received specialist, additional training. They are current professional members of LDANZ and members of Dyslexia PLUS. Our teachers contract with member families to provide specialist 1:1 lessons.

Your support for your local committee and its activities will determine the strength and ability of Dyslexia PLUS to fulfil its aims.

If you have any queries or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.



Empowering people with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities (SLD) by offering support and advocacy

- ✓ Identification of dyslexia/SLD
- ✓ One-to-one lessons by qualified specialist teachers
- ✓ Customised programmes
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Public events
- ✓ A specialised library
- ✓ Training pathways

Dyslexia PLUS is affiliated to LDANZ
(Learning Disabilities Association of NZ)
www.ldanz.org.nz



Teaching Support entry points

There are two starting points for families to consider.

1. Become a financial member and be linked in with one of our teachers who will use an **initial literacy assessment tool** to know where to begin working with your child.

After 6 months of teaching, your child's progress will be appraised and a recommendation for a formal Woodcock Johnson assessment will be considered.

2. Book a Woodcock Johnson assessment – see below



Does your child consistently have:

- ✓ unexpected difficulties with reading, spelling or maths?
- ✓ problems following instructions?
- ✓ a need for extra time for class activities?
- ✓ a growing dislike of school?
- ✓ a strong tendency to forget what they have learned?
- ✓ a persisting difficulty forming letters and numbers?
- ✓ a reluctance to read aloud?
- ✓ a large gap between oral and written abilities?
- ✓ trouble organising themselves?
- ✓ creative talents and entrepreneurial skills?

For further information, please contact us:



Dyslexia PLUS

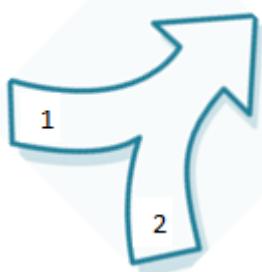
09 430 0693

admin@dyslexiaplus.org.nz

www.dyslexiaplus.org.nz

Municipal Building,
71 Bank St, Whangarei

PO Box 1314
Whangarei 0140



Assessments



We make arrangements with an assessor to travel to Whangarei when there is a cluster of assessment enquiries. 3- 5 bookings are confirmed for each cluster. This can be up to 6 months down the track.



To know when an assessor has been booked to travel north, please contact our office.



The cost of an assessment depends on the assessor, but is in the region of \$690, usually paid on invoice to the assessor before the appointment.



Bookings for assessments are made by the assessor in the order each completed application is received.



See the next page for the steps involved, and then read on for more detail and information.

Starting with an Assessment – The Steps

1
Family contacts the Dyslexia PLUS office and receives our Enquirer's pack.



2
Family confirms with Dyslexia PLUS that they wish to go ahead and book an **assessment** by returning the Enquiry Confirmation form and paying a \$50 booking fee.
This fee goes towards administration costs and \$20 is credited to the first annual membership subscription.



3
Family receives a questionnaire to provide the assessor with a profile of the child who will be having an assessment. This includes information about speech, hearing, eyesight, schooling, previous learning support, and the child's interests. There is also a questionnaire to pass onto the class teacher. These are emailed directly to the assessor.



6
After the assessment, the assessor invites the family to make contact and discuss the results of the assessment.
Family receives an assessment report showing the results. They can share this with the child's class teacher and with their Dyslexia PLUS teacher.



5
Assessor finalises the appointment schedule and advises the family of date, time and venue.
The assessor sends a reminder to the family a week ahead.
Families pay the assessment fee (varies but approx \$690.00) directly to the assessor.



4
Assessor contacts the family and confirms the dates of the next visit to Whangarei.
The assessment can take 4 – 5 hours.



7
Family decides where to from here.
They can request specialist lessons through Dyslexia PLUS. This means becoming a financial member (subscriptions are \$75 per year, falling due on 1 July. Depending on the joining date a proportion of this is charged, less the \$20 credit from the booking fee.) Once a member, families are linked to one of our specialist teachers.



8
Family meets with the specialist teacher and provides a copy of the assessment report. Time and venue for lessons are arranged, homework expectations, contact with the school, stationery needs and method of payment (\$50 - \$60 a lesson) are all discussed. An agreement of understanding is signed.
Families receive written reports in June and December.

Assessment Information

The educational psychological Assessment

The assessment tool used is the internationally - recognised Woodcock Johnson Tests of Cognitive Ability, Oral Language and Achievement.



The assessment procedure is designed to check the student's development in a number of areas to help work out if he/she may be affected by a specific learning disability / dyslexia.

The complete assessment takes several hours. It is made up of many small activities, most of which take only a few minutes. Time is given for breaks. Most students find the assessment interesting and enjoyable.



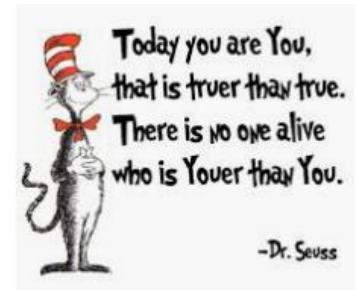
What?

The assessment indicates intellectual and educational strengths and weaknesses. It evaluates intellectual ability, oral language skills, thinking skills, reading, written language, maths, auditory skills, spatial awareness and short-term memory skills.

Why?

The Woodcock Johnson Assessment serves several purposes:

- * To identify if there is a specific learning disability / dyslexia
- * To provide information about current cognitive ability and academic achievement
- * To give accurate baseline data against which future progress can be measured
- * To suggest evidence-based approaches to address individual learning needs
- * To recommend individualised tuition, if needed



Then



After the assessment families will discuss the findings with the assessor. They will receive copies of the detailed, confidential report.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to share the report with their child, family, doctor and classroom teacher.

If families decide to proceed with specialist tuition, then parents or caregivers are to pass a copy of their child's Woodcock Johnson assessment report to their child's Dyslexia PLUS teacher.



Costs

The current charges are:

Booking fee: \$50.00 to be paid when submitting the Enquiry Confirmation form.

Internet payment: 12 3115 0232278 00; Reference: Family name and Code BF

Assessment: \$690.00 (likely cost) payable to the assessor the week before the assessment.

Annual subscription: \$75.00 per family (to be paid before lessons begin).

Note: \$20 of your Booking Fee is credited towards your first subscription.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July. If joining during our financial year, your first subscription will be a portion (divided into quarterly payments)

Online payment: 12 3115 0232278 00; Reference: Family name and Code AS

Tuition: \$50 - \$60 per lesson payable as arranged to the Dyslexia PLUS teacher.

Library Key: \$10 bond payable when our library agreement is signed. Check in with the office.

Office

Our office is currently on the First floor of the Civic Arcade in Bank St.
It is open from 9:00 to 11am on Mondays and Tuesdays.



Library

Our library is in the room beside our office. Some of our teachers use this room as a venue for their lessons. Financial members are welcome to borrow books and resources once they have signed the borrower's agreement. The library can be accessed by paying a \$10 bond for a key which gives access any time the Community Hub is open.

Scholarships

Dyslexia PLUS applies for monetary grants in order to assist some families meet the costs of assessment and / or lessons. Such scholarships are only available while funding exists.

All families granted an assessment scholarship are required to pay the booking fee (\$50.00). Assessment scholarships are granted for up to half of the assessment cost.



All families granted a lesson scholarship are required to first be a financial member of Dyslexia PLUS (annual subscription \$75.00). Lesson scholarships are granted for up to half of the cost of the weekly lesson. The scholarship is initially valid for 20 weekly lessons; a renewal application can be submitted after 15 lessons.

Scholarships are mostly considered for families with a Community Services Card.

A scholarship application form is sent out as a separate attachment with this Enquirer's information.

Children's Spectacle Subsidy

If your child is 15 or under and has vision problems, you may be able to get the spectacle subsidy.

Eligibility:



- ✓ **Under 15 or under when tested**
- ✓ **A Community Services Card OR**
- ✓ **A High Health Users Card**



This benefit is available EVERY year, for EVERY child until they turn 16, provided the family has either of the cards mentioned above. If the family has more than one child under 15, they are each eligible for the \$287.50 (GST inc) subsidy, every 12 months if necessary.

Please note that Specsavers provide free vision testing for children from ages 4 – 15 regardless of Health cards.

For more information

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services/types-disability-support/hearing-and-vision-services/childrens-spectacle-subsidy>

Child Disability Allowance

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/child-disability-allowance.html>

Some parents have been successful in obtaining the Child Disability Allowance from Work and Income. We're letting you know as there might be some of our families who would like to access this.

Website

From the Work and Income website:

Child Disability Allowance is a fortnightly payment made to the main carer of a child or young person with a serious disability. It is paid in recognition of the extra care and attention needed for that child.

Who can get it?

You may get a Child Disability Allowance if:

- you are the main carer of the child (or if there is no main carer, you have care of the child for the time being)
- you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- the child has been assessed as needing constant care and attention for at least 12 months because of a serious disability
- the child or young person is under 18.

Step 1 - Fill out the form

You need to complete the Child Disability Allowance application form. Your child's health practitioner also needs to complete the medical certificate inside this form.

[Child Disability Allowance Application Form \(PDF 641.05KB\)](#)

If you can't print the form out, you can call us to get an application form sent to you or you can pick one up from your local service centre.

Step 2

If you're already getting a benefit from us and your child is included in this, you can post the forms back to us. The application form tells you what documents you need to provide.

6

Due to that serious disability, do they need constant care and attention as follows?

A. **Frequent** attention from another person in connection with bodily functions which is required as a consequence of the disability, and is in excess of that normally required by a child or young person of the same age?

No Yes

OR

B. Attention and supervision **substantially** in excess of that normally required by a child or young person of the same age and sex?

No Yes

OR

The important box
for the GP to tick

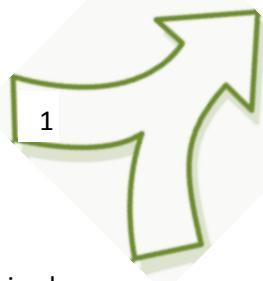




Action points for your decision

Option 1- initial literacy assessment and lessons

1. Return the membership application form to our office.
2. Pay your first subscription.
3. Respond to the contact made by one of our specialist teachers and agree on when and where lessons will be; sign an agreement of understanding.
4. After no more than 6 months of lessons, your child's progress will be appraised to see if there is a need for a Woodcock Johnson assessment to better understand the way your child learns. Lessons can be ongoing.



Option 2 – assessment and lessons

1. Return the Enquiry Confirmation form and pay a \$50 booking fee.
2. Receive and complete the assessor's questionnaire and submit it.
3. Mark the date, time and venue of the appointment schedule advised by the assessor.
4. Take your child to the assessment appointment.
5. Discuss the assessment findings with the assessor.
6. Inform our office as to whether or not you want to join Dyslexia PLUS and have lessons with one of our specialist teachers.
7. Become a financial member of Dyslexia PLUS.
8. Respond to the contact made by one of our specialist teachers and agree on when and where lessons will be; sign an agreement of understanding.



Attachments:

Membership Application form

Enquiry Confirmation form

Scholarship Application form



If you have any queries or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.