Special Educational Needs Assessment Toolkit

Helping you in identifying and supporting special needs and barriers to learning
Introducing your Special Educational Needs Assessment Toolkit

Following conversations with many teachers, we’ve created this Toolkit to support you in the screening, identification and intervention planning for a number of special educational needs and barriers to learning. This Toolkit is an ideal resource that you can ‘dip in and out of’ so that whenever you or one of your colleagues feels there is an underlying issue holding a child back, there’s an assessment in the Toolkit that can help pinpoint the reasons, and help you to plan classroom interventions.

What does my Toolkit include?
Your SEN Assessment Toolkit includes a range of assessments covering four areas (see table below).

### Primary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DYSLEXIA</th>
<th>LITERACY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid</td>
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### Secondary

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An introduction to your SEN Assessment Toolkit
from Lorraine Petersen, OBE

For pupils working below expectations, it is vital that day-to-day formative teacher assessment is informing the next stage of teaching. If an individual child has not got the knowledge, skills and understanding to move on to the next stage of their learning, that needs to be addressed immediately.

Teachers need to quickly build up a clear picture of a child’s difficulties through their collection of formative assessment data, and work with the teachers to begin to carry out summative and diagnostic assessments to really understand the barriers to learning for an individual child.

This Toolkit has been developed to ensure that your school has the basic SEN assessment tools you may require to help identify and intervene as soon as you are aware that a pupil may be experiencing difficulties. By bringing together a number of tried and tested products, GL Education has developed a one-stop-shop for SEN assessments.

The real challenge for schools is how to identify specific needs, especially in children who are working below national expectations. Every teacher needs to ask themselves four questions:

- What are the barriers to learning for an individual child?
- How do we know what will be the most effective interventions to support the individual difficulties?
- How will we know if the interventions have worked?
- What should we do next?

This SEN Assessment Toolkit offers you an opportunity to ensure that every child is having their individual needs met through high quality differentiated teaching.

Rapid (Primary/Secondary)

Rapid is a dyslexia screener which is quick to administer, fun for the children and easy to analyse. It will identify children with difficulties in phonological processing, auditory memory, visual memory and phonic decoding. Based on the analysis from Rapid you will be able to identify those children who require more detailed diagnostic assessments.

What does it test?
Phonological awareness, phoneme discrimination, auditory & visual short-term memory and visual & verbal sequencing.

Who to test?
Children identified by Rapid as possibly having dyslexic tendencies

What does the test entail?
Nine tests presented as a game

How long does it take?
45 minutes

What can I use it with?
CoPs, LASS

CoPs (Primary)

CoPs is a child-friendly dyslexia screening tool for 4 to 8-year olds that not only allows early identification of dyslexia, but will also give you a deeper understanding of other cognitive difficulties that may be impairing a child’s learning.

What does it test?
Phonological awareness, phoneme discrimination, auditory & visual short-term memory and visual & verbal sequencing.

Who to test?
Children identified by Rapid as possibly having dyslexic tendencies

What does the test entail?
Nine tests presented as a game

How long does it take?
45 minutes

What can I use it with?
Rapid
LASS (Primary/Secondary)

LASS is a tool for identifying dyslexia by assessing attainment in reading and spelling. You can also use LASS to measure ongoing progress in reading and spelling on a regular basis.

What does it test?
Attainment in reading and spelling, as well as measuring discrepancies between actual and expected literacy levels

Who to test?
Children identified by Rapid as possibly having dyslexic tendencies

What does the test entail?
8 on-screen tests

How long does it take?
45 minutes

What can I use it with?
Rapid

ViSS (Primary/Secondary)

ViSS (Primary/Secondary) is a tool for identifying dyslexia by assessing attainment in reading and spelling. You can also use ViSS to measure ongoing progress in reading and spelling on a regular basis.

What does it test?
Symptoms of visual stress

Who to test?
Pupils who struggle with reading

What does the test entail?
A short series of on-screen tests

How long does it take?
20-30 minutes

What can I use it with?
CoPS and LASS

York Assessment of Reading Comprehension (YARC)

(YARCs) (Primary/Secondary)

Statistically, it's possible that in any one classroom there are up to 6 children who are susceptible to visual stress when reading. Teachers can use the Visual Stress Screener (ViSS) to identify these children quickly and put in place strategies and interventions to support them.

What does it test?
Phonological skills, alphabetic knowledge and single word reading

Who to test?
Pupils for whom you want to get right under the skin of their reading difficulties

What does the test entail?
Individual paper-based assessments

How long does it take?
20-30 minutes

What can I use it with?
WellComm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Phonological Assessment Battery (PhAB) (Primary)</strong></th>
<th><strong>WellComm (Primary)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sandwell Early Numeracy Test (SENT) (Primary/Secondary)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recall (Primary/Secondary)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>PhAB</em> assesses phonological awareness and is ideal if a child has failed to meet national expected standards in phonics. It offers a greater understanding of the child’s phonological strengths and weaknesses and informs appropriate interventions to improve literacy skills.</td>
<td><em>WellComm</em> is a speech and language toolkit for screening and intervention in the early years and is designed to offer a range of customised intervention activities to support language development. It can be used with children from 6 months to 6 years and includes 150 intervention activities.</td>
<td><em>SENT</em> is ideal for screening, monitoring and tracking progress, as well as for individual diagnostic profiling and measuring the effectiveness of intervention programmes for pupils whose performance in numeracy is well below average for their age group.</td>
<td><em>Recall</em> assesses working memory and quickly identifies those children who will require classroom intervention strategies.</td>
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<td><strong>What does it test?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phonological awareness</td>
<td>Speech development</td>
<td>Identification of numbers</td>
<td>Working memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech development</td>
<td>Oral counting</td>
<td>Value/computation</td>
<td>Children who learn more slowly than you would expect, taking everything else into account</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Who to test?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children struggling to learn to read</td>
<td>Children with speech and language difficulties</td>
<td>Pupils struggling with math</td>
<td>Fully automated on-screen test requiring minimal supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What does the test entail?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten subtests covering separate areas of difficulty with phonological awareness</td>
<td>Speech and language screening, mainly observation-based</td>
<td>Individual paper-based assessment</td>
<td>Fully automated on-screen test requiring minimal supervision</td>
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<td><strong>How long does it take?</strong></td>
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<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>10-15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What can I use it with?</strong></td>
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Emotional Literacy (Primary/Secondary)

With many children experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties, Emotional Literacy: Assessment and Intervention provides a tool for assessing five key areas of emotional literacy.

- Who to test?
  - All pupils aged 7–16

- What does the test entail?
  - A pupil questionnaire, a teacher questionnaire and a parent questionnaire

- What does it test?
  - Self-awareness
  - Self-regulation
  - Motivation
  - Empathy
  - Social skills

- What can I use it with?
  - Untimed

- How long does it take?
  - Untimed

Resilience (Primary/Secondary)

Resilience is designed to help all levels of school staff and clinical practitioners screen and respond to children’s mental health needs quickly. This booklet provides tools to help measure a range of resilient behaviours.

- Who to assess?
  - Vulnerable pupils, or those with low self esteem

- What does it assess?
  - Learned helplessness
  - Hopefulness
  - Cognitive and behavioural coping strategies
  - Control of personal outcomes in life
  - Coping strategies
  - Belief in ability to handle challenging situations

- What can I use it with?
  - Enjoyment
  - Belonging
  - Distress
  - Responsiveness
  - Social behaviour
  - Healthy living

- How long does it take?
  - Varies

- What does the assessment entail?
  - Six photocopiable measures

The Measures of Children’s Mental Health & Psychological Wellbeing series also includes books on:

- Enjoyment
- Belonging
- Distress
- Responsiveness
- Social behaviour
- Healthy living