

## What are the diagnostic criteria?

All information obtained in the assessment is analysed using the World Health Organisation's diagnostic criteria for ADHD (ICD-10). This states that the main symptoms are impaired attention and overactivity.

Both are necessary for diagnosis.

- Impaired attention – manifested by a lack of persistent task involvement and a tendency to move from one activity to another without completion.
- Overactivity – characterised by restlessness, talkativeness, particularly in situations requiring calm.

- ⇒ Early Onset: behavioural symptoms present prior to 6 years of age and of long duration.
- ⇒ Impairment must be present in two or more settings (eg: home, classroom, clinic)
- ⇒ Diagnosis of anxiety disorders, mood affective disorders, pervasive developmental disorders must be excluded.

## About Oakdale

The Oakdale Centre was established in 1998 by a group of committed and passionate practitioners with broad experience within mental healthcare.

Oakdale has developed a multi-disciplinary ADHD assessment team which typically includes a specialist psychiatrist and other appropriately qualified healthcare professionals with training and expertise in the diagnosis of ADHD including clinical psychology, occupational therapy and educational psychology .

If you'd like to find out more about the Oakdale Centre or the services we provide you can visit our website or call us on the number below. One of our team will be happy to talk to you in confidence and advise on the most appropriate help and support for you and/or your family.

Whilst the Centre is based in Harrogate, we also work from other venues in the region.

## Oakdale Centre

49 Valley Drive, Harrogate, HG2 0JH  
† 01423 503080  
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## Oakdale ADHD Assessment

Information for parents  
and carers



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## Understanding neurodevelopmental difference

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental difference. Just like other children, no two children with ADHD are the same. It is important to understand each child's particular strengths and needs.

ADHD is not a disease and it is not assessed by a brain scan or blood test. There are particular behaviour patterns that we can observe in children with ADHD. These include difficulties paying attention, being easily distracted, increased need for movement and saying or doing things without thinking.

Signs of ADHD can be very clear but sometimes they are more subtle, especially if a child has learned ways to cope or 'masks' their difficulties. The Oakdale team of specialist ADHD clinicians are experienced in assessing for ADHD and ensure that the views of the young person, their family and their school all have the opportunity of contributing to the process.

All children at different stages of development will display these behaviours. ADHD is only diagnosed when these behaviours are more frequent than expected and are impacting important areas of a child's life.

## ADHD Assessment Steps

What you can expect to happen

1



### Initial Assessment and Developmental Interview

You will be invited to attend an initial assessment with one of our practitioners. In this session we will gather some information about your current situation and ask in depth questions about your child's behaviours, focusing on the early years. A standardised psychometric measure will also be completed with you. This session can take up to two hours.

2



### School Observation

Following this, a practitioner will undertake an observation of your child within their educational setting. They will speak to teaching staff who know your child well and complete a Standardised psychometric measure with the identified member of staff

3



### Multi-Disciplinary Panel

We will have gathered a substantial amount of information about your child. Our team will review this information and come to a conclusion about whether your child meets diagnostic criteria or not.

4



### Feedback

Following the panel meeting, you will be invited to attend a feedback meeting with one of our practitioners where we will share the outcome of the assessment and advise you about next steps.