



Your Child's Assessment Team

At the Child Development Clinic

This handout describes the team that will work with you and your child at the Child Development Clinic at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). This clinic is part of The Center on Human Development and Disability.

About Our Clinic

The Child Development Clinic provides diagnosis, assessment, and recommendations for children whose families have concerns about developmental disabilities. Requests for consultation come from family members, nurses, doctors, therapists, teachers, and social service agencies. Mostly, we see children who are 3 to 15 years old, but sometimes we see younger or older children. We usually see children who have already been evaluated by their primary care providers and school programs.

The Assessment Team

Some or all of these health care providers may be involved in your child's care:

- A **clinic nurse or medical assistant** measures your child's height, weight, head circumference, and blood pressure.
- A **developmental pediatrician**, a doctor trained in developmental disabilities, takes a detailed family and medical history and does a thorough physical and neurological exam. This doctor will talk with you about any consultations with other medical specialists.
- A **psychologist** assesses your child's ability to solve problems and learn social skills, as well as their academic achievement, memory, and emotional well-being. A psychological assessment usually involves standard tests and behavioral observations of your child. You may also be interviewed and asked to complete questionnaires.



Questions?

Call 206-598-3327

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Child Development
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- An **occupational** or **physical therapist** evaluates how your child does in *gross motor skills* like walking and jumping and *fine motor skills* like grasping and writing. Assessment may also include looking at your child's ability to take part in activities such as play, eating, or dressing. Sensory concerns can also be evaluated.
- A **nutritionist** asks about your child's food intake and eating habits. Energy (calories) and nutrients may be calculated. Arm circumference and skin-fold measurements may be recorded.
- A **speech/language pathologist** uses many different standard tests and play activities to evaluate your child's speech and language development. Listening and understanding (*receptive*) and communication (*expressive*) skills will be assessed.
- An **audiologist** (a hearing specialist) tests your child's hearing in a very accurate way.
- A **social worker** will talk with you about your goals for having your child assessed and what you hope to gain from the evaluation. The social worker will also talk with you about your child's development and behavior, areas of strengths and limitations, and self-concept. The social worker will also ask you questions about your family roles, relationships, parenting practices, and cultural beliefs. This information will be given to the team to help understand family concerns, goals, and expectations.

The Child Development Clinic has a grant from the federal government to provide advanced training to health professionals. You and your child will always be seen by clinic staff when you receive care here. The trainees you may see will be supervised by staff.

Assessment Results

After the evaluation, team members will meet to discuss their findings. They will then make recommendations for:

- Medical care, including tests medicines, and other treatments
- Educational planning
- Community resources, such as parent support groups or social service agencies
- Resources that support the assessment results, such as referrals to an occupational or behavioral specialist
- Ways to help your family effectively advocate for your child's needs

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