

Developmental Epilepsy Clinic

Wolfson Neurodisability Service

A young child with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, looking down at colorful plastic blocks. The child is wearing a yellow t-shirt under blue denim overalls. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting. The text 'Information for families' is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Information for families

Great Ormond Street Hospital
for Children NHS Foundation Trust

What is the Developmental Epilepsy Clinic?

The Developmental Epilepsy Clinic at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is led by a multidisciplinary team that provides specialist assessment and management of the interaction between complex epilepsy and development. We are part of the Neurodisability Service and also work closely with the Epilepsy Service. We carry out developmental assessments, which show the child's level of abilities and explore any behavioural issues. This information is then used to make diagnoses, direct medical and surgical interventions, and to guide education, therapy and behaviour management.



Members of the team

Team members vary depending on the child's need, but will generally include a paediatric neurologist, speech and language therapist and clinical psychologist. An occupational therapist is also available.

Who we see

We see children up to the age of 16 years who have epilepsy and associated developmental problems. We particularly focus on:

- Landau-Kleffner syndrome (acquired epileptic aphasia) and other epilepsies where there may be difficulties with language, social communication, learning, behaviour or movement
- monitoring of development for specific epilepsy treatments
- evaluation of development as a baseline for decisions about epilepsy surgery
- children who are difficult to assess because of behaviour, sensory impairment or unusual developmental profiles

The clinic visit

When you arrive please check in at the Outpatient Reception Desk on the ground floor of the hospital. Appointments last approximately two to four hours and may involve some waiting, so do bring a snack. It may help to note down your main concerns or questions before clinic. It is also helpful if you **bring copies of recent assessment reports**.

You are welcome to bring local professionals, but please inform the clinic secretary in advance.

There are usually three parts to the session:

- **Interview:** We explore your child's history and your concerns.
- **Assessment:** We assess your child's abilities and behaviour using observation, puzzles, games and questionnaires.
- **Feedback:** We take a break to discuss the assessment as a team, and then meet with you to discuss our findings and recommendations. You will be given a brief preliminary report to take away on the day and a full written report will follow.

Research in the Developmental Epilepsy Clinic

We are actively involved in research and may ask you and your child if you are interested in being involved. We keep a registered database (ref: **04NR21**) of clinical information that may be used to improve quality of care. All data is strictly confidential and will only be used in an anonymous way. If you would prefer your child's details **not** to be entered into the database you are free to 'opt out' and this will have no impact on your child's future care or treatment. Please let a member of the team know if you wish to opt out.

Contact details

For more information on the Developmental Epilepsy Clinic please contact the clinic secretary on 020 7405 9200 ext 1144.

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in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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