

# Developmental Epilepsy Clinic

Wolfson Neurodisability Service

A young child with dark, curly hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt and denim overalls, is looking down at colorful plastic blocks. The child's expression is focused. 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 a multidisciplinary clinic 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 doctor, 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 with complex developmental issues. We particularly focus on:

- Landau-Kleffner syndrome (epileptic aphasia spectrum) and other epilepsies where there may be difficulties with speech and language, social communication, learning, behaviour or movement
- genetic forms of epilepsy
- monitoring of development for specific epilepsy treatments
- evaluation of development before and after epilepsy surgery
- children who find some assessments challenging due to 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 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. Please complete the pre-visit questionnaire and bring it and copies of any previous assessment reports to clinic. You are welcome to invite 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 standardised assessments, involving pictures, puzzles and games.
- **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 summary 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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