



## **Developmental Assessment Clinic (DAC)**

### *Overview for Evaluations*

The Developmental Assessment Clinic (DAC) is a multi-disciplinary clinic that brings together a collaboration of clinicians to provide state-of-the-art care for families. Ochsner's DAC includes specialists in developmental/behavioral pediatrics, psychology, genetics, neurology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and applied behavior analysis. Services are available to toddlers, school-age children, and young adults. The developmental assessment clinic evaluates and provides treatments for intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, motor disorders, and communication disorders.

The clinic takes a team-based approach to evaluation. The child receives a developmental interview and physical examination, a psychological and developmental evaluation, a therapeutic feedback session, and medical follow-up. The team collaborates to discuss the diagnosis, a treatment plan, and the need for any further evaluations or testing.

In order to schedule an appointment, the parents complete a DAC Intake and return it to the Boh Child Development Center at Ochsner's Children's Hospital. The team will review the packet and a medical assistant will call to schedule a developmental intake and physical exam with the developmental-behavioral pediatrician. The goal of this first appointment is to collect detailed information regarding your child's development. Additionally, this will provide an opportunity for you to discuss your concerns regarding your child's behaviors. Detailed information regarding when and where these behaviors are occurring will be collected. Based on information obtained during this discussion, a plan of care for your child will be created.

At the conclusion of this visit, your doctor will also provide you with rating scales to complete. These may be either sent electronically to you via email or given to you in paper form to bring back on your next visit. Rating scales for teachers may also be sent if applicable to assess your child's behaviors in the school/daycare environment.

After the developmental intake and exam are complete, the child will return for a second appointment to receive a psychological evaluation. Your child will be given the opportunity to interact with a variety of toys and engage in activities with both you and the doctor.

The second visit will provide an opportunity for your doctor to interact with your child. A variety of developmental assessments may be administered that will assess for autism or cognitive functioning. These tests will be individualized to your child's needs and will be selected based on the information collected during the diagnostic interview.

After the evaluation, the psychologist and developmental-pediatrician will meet in order to discuss the results. After a thorough report that includes recommendations for the child, family, and school (if applicable) is completed, the parents will return for a therapeutic feedback session to discuss the results and recommendations for treatment and support. This visit will provide you with an opportunity to sit down with your child's doctor to discuss the results of the tests conducted in the previous visit. Specific treatment recommendations will be discussed so that you will have a better understanding of how to help your child. A written report will be provided to you at this time. Additionally, this session provides an opportunity to answer questions regarding your child's diagnosis.

At the therapeutic feedback session, the doctors may recommend visits with additional team members, as needed. This may include:

- Evaluations by speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy
- Visit with developmental pediatricians to address specific medical needs or medication management.
- Behavioral therapy sessions with psychologists
- Parent training sessions with a psychologist ABA therapist
- Referrals to specialty providers such as genetics or neurology

After the feedback session, it is recommended that the family return in 6-8 weeks for follow-up with the developmental pediatrician.

### ***ADHD Evaluations & ADHD Medication Management***

Children and adolescents who are seeking an ADHD evaluation will complete a developmental intake form and evidence-based rating scales prior to their initial appointment. It is important to complete these forms prior to the appointment because the physicians review these materials prior to meeting your child. At the initial appointment, a physical exam and testing to determine a diagnosis of ADHD will be conducted. If this is the first evaluation for ADHD, the physician may also request further testing to assess for any highly comorbid disorders that may impact symptoms of ADHD. At the conclusion of the appointment, there will be a discussion regarding next steps,

possible medications options, and any recommendations that would benefit the development of the child.

*Medication Management.* Children with ADHD can receive medication management and follow-up with a physician, after receiving a diagnosis of ADHD. If you wish to visit the Developmental Assessment Clinic at the Boh Child Development Center for medication management and already have a diagnosis of ADHD, please provide the documentation and report of the ADHD evaluation.