

Information for parents

A test for your child

Some children get good marks at school. For some children, however, learning is not as easy as for others. They may have difficulty following the subject matter or find it hard to concentrate. There are a variety of reasons why children sometimes develop behavioural problems. The result is often that they fall behind their class mates and they then stop enjoying school very quickly.

The school wants to help children with learning difficulties. Sometimes this involves a special assessment. This assessment is carried out to establish the cause of the problem and to give advice on how to tackle it. The school feels that it is advisable that your child has this test. This letter explains what is going to happen.

Individual approach

A psychologist or educational psychologist of the *Haags Centrum voor Onderwijsbegeleiding* will test your child. Every child is tested individually, outside the classroom. The psychologist or educational psychologist will test your child in a separate, quiet room. Other children, teachers or parents may not be present.

Prior to the test, the assessor will give you a list of questions to complete. These are questions about the development of your child. If the assessor has any further questions, he or she will contact you again before the assessment, to get a better insight into your child's problems.

Tasks

The assessor uses different testing methods to establish your child's strongest and weakest points, his or her potential, personality, skills and interests. This means that your son or daughter will have to answer a number of questions and carry out a few simple tasks. These include puzzles, drawings, simple exercises using bricks and often also some language and maths exercises. Sometimes the assessor will first visit the class. The assessment can also be directed at a specific problem your child may have.

The assessment usually lasts one morning. Your child will be assessed during school hours, usually in his/her own school.

Some questions you may have about the test

Do I have to give permission?

The school is concerned about your child and would like to be able to help him or her better. This is why we would like to have your child tested. Without your permission we will obviously not go ahead.

Who will get the results?

As parents, you will obviously get the results and the school gets these too, unless you object. There are two options:

Unless you object, the assessor will first discuss the results with the special needs advisor and the teacher. He/she will go through the possible solutions with them, such as extra help and exercises which may be provided in class or outside the classroom. It could also be that a different form of education would be the best solution, or that other expert help is required. The outcome of this meeting will be discussed with you.

If you prefer it, the results can be discussed with you first. This gives you another opportunity to decide whether or not the information may be passed on to the school. Should decide against, however, the school will be unable to give your child the help it needs. On the application form you should state for which of the two options you have chosen.

What are my rights?

You are entitled to see the information collected about your child and to correct any inaccuracies. You cannot change the advice. You can decide whether or not the information is passed on to the school. However, this will mean that the school will be unable to act on the advice. You may even have the file destroyed.

The information is usually disclosed during the advice meeting.

What about privacy?

The information about your child will be kept in a file at *HCO* until your child is 18 years of age. No information will be passed on to third parties without your permission. The *HCO* assessor is bound to conform to the current code of conduct. The school or the *HCO* can provide more information. There is also a complaints procedure.

What are the costs?

The cost of the assessment is paid for by the school.

If you have any further questions about the assessment, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.