

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM FAMILIES

MURDOCH CENTER CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CLINIC

1. What will my child gain from coming to the Assessment Clinic?

Answer: Comprehensive treatment, service and support recommendations based on a collaborative effort with professionals across disciplines who have expertise working with children who have complex needs. The assessment team will include a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, pharmacist and social worker, but may be expanded to include a dentist, speech language pathologist, school educator, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or dietician, as appropriate. Your child's care coordinator or case manager will work with you to get recommendations from the clinic fulfilled.

2. What is going to happen during the Assessment Clinic appointment?

Answer: Prior to the appointment, the clinic professionals will complete a thorough review of your child's referral information and existing clinical records. At the clinic, your child will have a basic physical assessment performed by the physician, accompanied by the psychiatrist. Clinic professionals will then use a combination of direct interactions and observations with/of your child, as well as interviews/questionnaires with your child and their family to assess the overall behavioral, psychiatric and social functioning of your child.

3. What will happen if my child has a behavior issue at the Assessment Clinic?

Answer: Parents/Guardians are ultimately responsible for your child while they are at the Assessment Clinic, but clinic professionals will help to safely manage any behavioral issues that arise. Our responses/reactions will vary depending on the situation. Please be aware that we cannot allow your child to hurt themselves or others. Therefore, we will need your consent to use physical intervention if necessary to protect your child or others from harm.

4. What do I need to bring to the Clinic appointment?

Answer: Items/activities that your child finds enjoyable and entertaining (e.g., magazine, favorite toy, iPad, iPod, coloring book, etc.); snacks and beverages for you and your child (there are vending machines in the building where the Assessment Clinic is being held); a change of clothes and disposable protective briefs (if your child has toileting accidents) and any needed medications.

5. Can I bring other children to the Assessment Clinic appointment?

Answer: This is not recommended, as your attention will need to be focused on the child being assessed. However, if other child (ren) help care for the child being assessed, then it may be appropriate.

6. How long will the clinic appointment last?

Answer: You should plan on being at the clinic for about four hours.

7. When can I expect the official Assessment Clinic results?

Answer: In most cases, the interdisciplinary team will provide you with a few recommendations at the close of the appointment. The actual Comprehensive Clinical Assessment should be completed within two weeks of the clinic appointment.