

# Get wise to preparing a child for an assessment for equipment or adaptations



The BHTA has produced this guidance to ensure families and carers understand what an assessment is and what outcomes should be achieved.

A health professional will carry out the assessment. They must be qualified, trained and experienced in identifying needs and offering suitable solutions for disabled children.

If your child has an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) in place, it is important that any needs identified in the assessment are included and specified in the plan. There are legal obligations for the EHCP to cover **all needs identified in relation to education, health and care** including equipment provision (as stated in the Children & Young People's Act 2014).

## Before the assessment

Questions to ask before the assessment:

- Why does my child need an assessment?
- What equipment is my child being assessed for?
- Who will attend the assessment and how long will it take?
- What information should I receive before the meeting and who will provide this?
- Does my child need to be off school?
- Does my child need to be well on the day of the assessment?

It's important to know where the assessment will take place. If your child's needs are such that you would prefer the assessment to take place at home you can request this. However some assessments may need to take place in a clinic for practical reasons, in order to achieve the best outcome for your child. An example of this might be when equipment which is being considered needs to be tried out.

## On the day of the assessment

Prepare your child for the assessment by explaining what will happen.

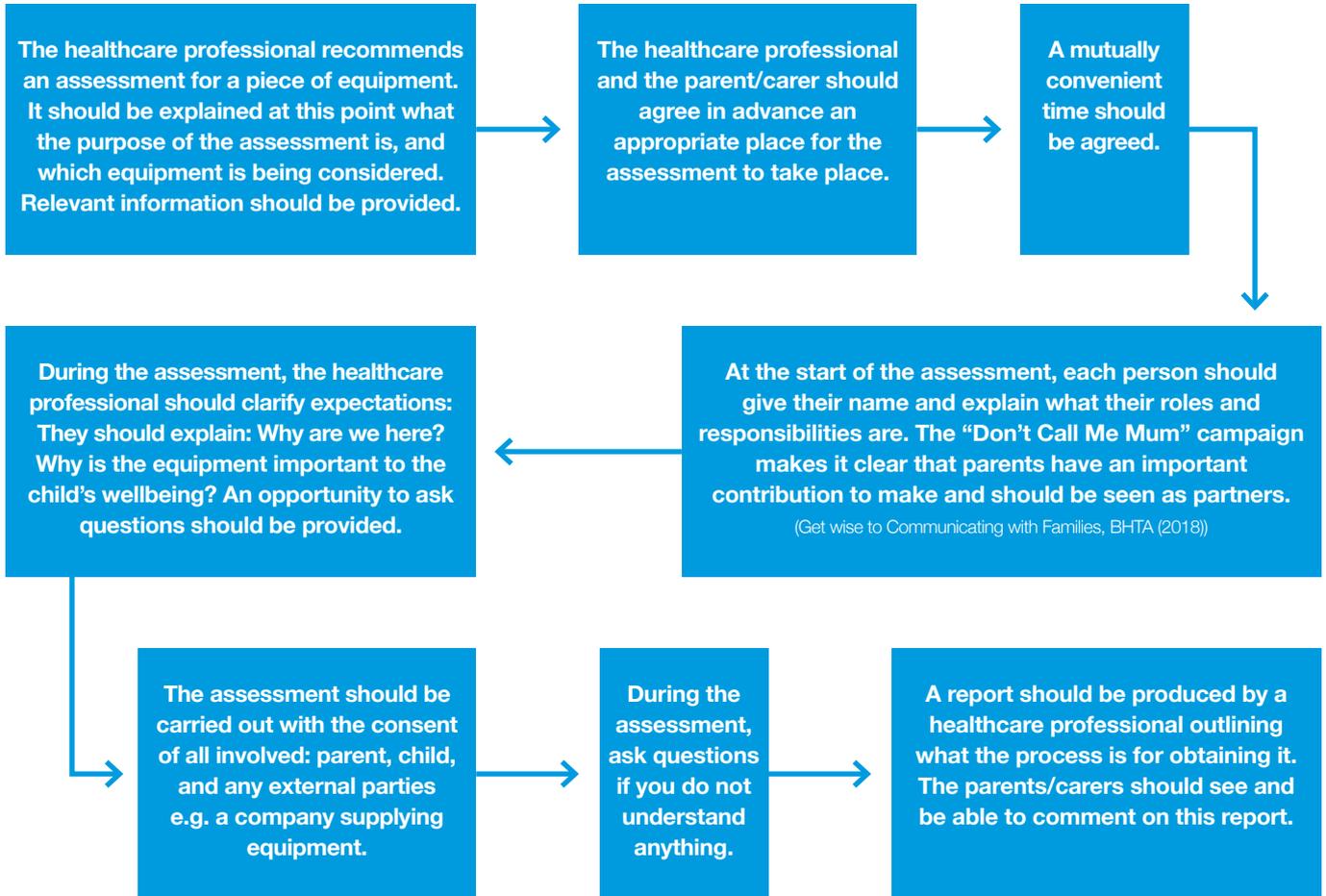
### 'Nothing about me without me'

**It's important that the assessment doesn't feel rushed. If you are concerned that your child is uncomfortable during the assessment and you feel that it won't be possible to get an accurate picture of their needs, ask to reschedule.**

If you have concerns about the equipment being discussed, you can raise them during the assessment. If the therapist believes a specific piece of equipment is needed, they need to ensure that either you or the family understand why and how it will contribute to your child's wellbeing.



The assessment process



Before the assessment is completed, there should be time to ask questions. You may want to know:

- What's going to happen next?
- How long will it be until I hear the outcome of the assessment?
- Who can I contact if I have any questions or concerns?
- Who will make a decision?
- How will I be informed?

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