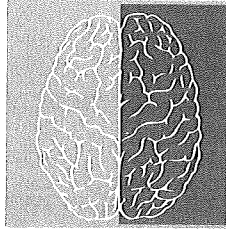


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# NEUROPSYCHOLOGY SERVICE, P.A.

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Purpose of Evaluation** Neuropsychological evaluations of a child may be requested by a parent, a physician, a psychologist, a teacher, or by another professional involved in the child's care. The purpose of the evaluation may be to help understand what is causing the child to have certain kinds of problems (e.g., with thinking, learning, emotions, or behavior); to understand how the child's brain has been affected after some kind of injury or illness (e.g., a brain injury, physical abuse, exposure to toxins, brain infection); to identify and help treat various developmental disorders (e.g., autism, learning disabilities, ADHD); or to understand the child's individual strengths and weaknesses to help with educational or transitional planning.

**What Is It Like?** Prior to the examination, you will be asked to complete questionnaires, and arrange for medical and school information to be sent to us. The examination process includes interviews, observations, and formal testing. Your child will be asked to participate in a wide range of activities that sample his/her ability to attend, concentrate, learn and remember, control his/her behavior, understand visual information, understand language and communicate, reason, solve problems, read, write, and do math. His/her intellectual functions will be assessed, as will his/her emotional state and feelings. The particular set of tests your child will be given will be picked by the neuropsychologist especially for him/her, to help understand his/her unique set of problems, or to help answer questions your physician or the referring person has asked.

The evaluation is sometimes scheduled for a whole day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a one hour lunch break), or it may only be one half-day (or less) or multiple half-days. If your child is of preschool age, testing will be shorter and will usually range from 1-4 hours.

The testing process, because of its intensity and length, can be quite tiring for your child, but he/she will be given breaks as needed. For children with severe behavior problems, the direction and structure can sometimes be stressful; if you have learned special techniques that are particularly effective with your child, please let us know. Most children enjoy the day, finding the variety of tasks to be interesting, challenging, and fun. We also give out rewards to them when we can, such as juice, snacks, special pencils, stickers, etc. If you have any objections to this, please let us know during the initial interview.

As a normal part of understanding a child's abilities and problems, we also obtain information about the parent(s) and home situation. Our focus is not on the parents themselves, but on the child's environment and all the factors that might influence his/her ability to function. This information about you, the parent(s), will be used only in an effort to get a comprehensive

picture of the child and what he/she needs. In some cases, we identify a need in the parent, for which we will assist you in finding appropriate help.

Sometimes the neuropsychologist does all of the testing with your child, and other times he or she will have an assistant do some or all of the testing. The neuropsychologist is always in charge, and is the person who chooses the tests, interprets the test results, and writes the report.

**How Can I Prepare My Child?** Please ensure your child is well rested, wears comfortable clothing, and has adequate snacks for the morning and afternoon. Reassure him/her that nothing will hurt, and that it is not like going to the medical doctor or to school. Please arrange to be present (or to have someone known to the child present) for the day; this is comforting for the child, and helps us deal with unforeseen circumstances. If your child has any special needs, please let us know ahead of time so we can accommodate them. If he/she wears glasses or hearing aids, be sure to bring them. Please have your child take any medications the way they usually do. Our building is fully handicapped-accessible, and has an accessible bathroom.

**Will I Find Out the Results?** A “feedback” session will be scheduled within 2-3 weeks of the evaluation, where the neuropsychologist will go over the test results with you, and will discuss his or her overall conclusions and recommendations. You may invite others to this meeting who are involved in your child’s care. The full written report is usually available at the time of this meeting, or shortly thereafter. It is at the feedback session that you can decide who should get copies of the report.

**Who Pays For It?** Your insurance company may pay for all or some of the cost of the evaluation, depending on your insurance company, your policy, and your child’s problems. If you are relying on insurance benefits, we will check your insurance coverage ahead of time and ask that you pay your part up front; this may be only a small part of the estimated bill but in some cases (for instance, if you have a large, unmet deductible or it appears likely that your insurance will not cover the bill) it will be the entire estimated bill. This will be discussed with you at the time the appointment is made. Often a school or another agency will be paying for the evaluation. In any case, you are ultimately responsible for any balance that is not covered by another payor. For further information regarding billing and payment policies, please read the *Consent to Evaluation* form or contact our office.

**Consent for Minors** Prior to conducting an evaluation of a minor, we will require the consent of both parents, except where there is only one living parent, the minor is emancipated, one parent/guardian has sole custody, or other conditions are present making it appropriate for the minor to give consent. The parent/guardian will receive a copy of the report and may access the clinical record on behalf of the child until he or she turns 18, becomes emancipated, or is under alternative guardianship. Younger children may attend the feedback session with their parents/guardian but are not required to do so.