

## **Psychoeducational Assessments**

### **Learning Disability Assessments**

A psychoeducational assessment helps us understand a child's learning profile. Each child has a unique combination of strengths and challenges that, when properly understood, can be used to support and maximize their learning. In the process of an assessment, different aspects that affect a child's school success are closely examined. First, the core thinking and reasoning abilities that predict school success are teased apart. Many children struggle in school when they excel when reasoning with certain types of information but not others. Next, the way they work with information is considered. Some children struggle with the speed with which they look at information, how much they can remember, or how well they can pay attention. These skills have a profound impact on their academic functioning in school. Finally, when trying to understand the child as a whole, it is helpful to assess a child's mental health, which may also make school much more difficult.

#### **Your child may benefit from a psychoeducational assessment if he or she:**

- Struggles in some aspects of school (e.g. reading) while being good at others
- Has difficulty in school in general (e.g. low grades on report cards)
- Rarely can sit still long enough to learn
- Frequently gets frightened, upset or apathetic about going to school
- Needs support in school but does not currently receive it

**How can an assessment be useful?** A psychoeducational assessment can also identify certain diagnoses such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disability (e.g. Dyslexia) and anxiety and mood disorders. Often, understanding children's unique learning challenges is the first step in ensuring they receive the support they need.

**What is involved?** A psychoeducational assessment typically consists of an initial interview with parents and/or the child, 2 testing sessions with the child (about 3-4 hours each), and a session to discuss the results and any questions the family may have about the process. At the final session, a report will be given to you that can be given to the school or to anyone else with whom you would like to share it.

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### **Gifted Assessments**

It is important that all children are offered a curriculum that challenges them to learn and perform at the maximum of their potential. An assessment involves examination of your child's reasoning skills (including verbal and nonverbal reasoning), in addition to tests of their academic performance.

#### **Your child may benefit from a psychoeducational assessment if he or she:**

- Is experiencing boredom in the classroom
- Grasps concepts easily and quickly
- Has been working at a grade level ahead of his/her peers

- The school has provided feedback that the curriculum is not challenging enough and/or needs to be adapted to meet your child's needs

**What is involved?** A gifted assessment typically consists of an initial interview with parents and/or the child and 1-2 testing sessions with the child (about 3 hours each), and a session to discuss the results and any questions the family may have about the process. At the final session, a report will be given to you that can be given to the school or to anyone else with whom you would like to share it.