

Neuropsychology Evaluation



Your child's doctor has requested a neuropsychological evaluation for your child with Neuropsychology Services in Neurology.

Your appointment is on _____ at _____ with Dr. Hillary Shurtleff or Dr. Molly Warner and a psychometrist, Donna Dwyer-O'Connor, BS, CSP or Sara Florczyk, BS, MSc.

Please register on the 6th floor Whale zone at _____ (30 minutes before your appointment). Children's has three Neuropsychology services and you are going to the one in Neurology.

What is a neuropsychological evaluation?

This evaluation is one way to look at your child's brain development. While other tests look at other aspects of the brain (i.e., an EEG looks at electrical activity and an MRI looks at structure), this testing looks at brain-behavior relationships. We measure memory, attention and language skills, to name a few. This testing will assess your child's strengths and weaknesses, and help with medical treatment, school planning and behavioral intervention.

Who is involved in my child's care?

Neuropsychologist — A licensed psychologist who specializes in brain-behavior relationships and supervises the psychometrist.

To Learn More

- Neuropsychology Services in Neurology
206-987-2081
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers 206-987-2280 (TTY).

Psychometrist — A technologist who gives tests in a standardized way.

How long does it take?

The amount of time can vary, based on your child's age and abilities. The testing for school-aged children and teens often takes one full day. For preschool children, testing can take a half day. Infants and nonverbal children might take one to two hours.

What happens during the evaluation?

If your child is an infant or not verbal, both of you will meet with the neuropsychologist to talk about developmental history and to observe behavior. If your child is verbal and able to take part, then testing begins with the psychometrist. This testing may include puzzles, blocks and a question-and-answer session. At the same time, you will meet with the neuropsychologist to talk about your child's developmental history and social, school and behavioral abilities. Your child will have breaks throughout the day that depend upon age and ability to stay focused. You will have free time during the day while you are waiting.

How do I prepare my child?

Before the appointment, please:

- Find your child's testing records, IEP forms and report cards from school, and bring them to the appointment.
- Assure your child that there will be no pain or shots.
- If your child is school-aged, describe the testing as being like school.
- If your child is preschool-aged, describe the testing as playing games that involve listening, talking, and remembering. Let your child know that you will be nearby. (Parents are not allowed in the testing room.)
- Let your child know that they can take breaks to use the bathroom and eat lunch.
- Make sure your child gets a good night sleep and eats breakfast in the morning.
- Give medicines as you normally would before the appointment and during the day.
- Bring everything that your child normally needs, like glasses or hearing devices.

When can I get the results?

You will schedule a follow-up meeting with the neuropsychologist and get the results at that time. *The psychometrist doing the test cannot give you any specific information about the test results.* You will also receive a written report in the mail. This report, and any other information about your child, is confidential and only given to people who you identify in writing.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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