



Neuropsychology Evaluation

Your child's doctor has requested a neuropsychological evaluation. We evaluate patients when there are concerns about:

- Learning or memory
- Attention
- Academic performance
- Behavioral or emotional functioning

We also evaluate patients when a medical condition, treatment, or brain injury may be affecting the brain in some way.

What is a neuropsychological evaluation?

This evaluation is one way to look at your child's brain development. It helps us understand brain functioning for memory, attention, perception, coordination, language and personality. This information will help you and your child's teachers, therapists, and primary care provider choose the best treatments and interventions.

Who is involved in my child's care?

Psychometrist — A testing assistant who gives tests in a standardized way.

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

What happens during the evaluation?

An interview with the parents

One to 2 weeks before your child's testing visit, we schedule an interview with the parents to talk about your child's history and testing. We also may have you fill out questionnaires about your child's development and behavior.

Testing with your child

During testing, your child will do hands-on activities, write with paper and pencil, and answer questions. Sometimes they also may use a computer. Different psychometrists are trained to give different tests and score them, so your child may see more than one person.

Parents usually do not stay in the room during testing, unless you have a very young child. Your child will have breaks during the day that depend upon age and ability to stay focused.

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 3 to 4 hours. For preschool children, testing can take 2 to 3 hours. Infants and nonverbal children might take 1 to 2 hours.

To Learn More

- Neuropsychology Services
206-987-6944
- 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.

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.
- Describe the appointment as a day of activities that involve things like listening, talking, and remembering. Let your child know that you will be working with one person doing adult activities while your child does activities with another person. Let your child know that you will be nearby. (Parents are not allowed in the testing room.)
- If your child is older or a teenager, you can describe the day as being a little like school and as involving testing.
- Let your child know that they can take breaks to use the bathroom and eat lunch.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's 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?

The psychometrist doing the test cannot give you any specific information about the test results.

Scheduling will make a follow-up appointment with you and the neuropsychologist to discuss the results and recommendations. This may or may not include your child. We will talk with you about what would be best.

After the follow-up meeting, you will receive a written report in the mail. This report, and any other information about your child, is confidential and only given to people whom you identify in writing.