

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY



What is neuropsychology?

Pediatric neuropsychology focuses on how neurological and medical conditions affect all aspects of a child's life, including cognitive functioning (thinking, understanding, attention and concentration, and remembering), behavior, mood and emotional functioning, and learning.

What is a pediatric neuropsychologist?

Pediatric neuropsychologists have specialized training and expertise regarding brain development and the effects of development on learning and behavior. They gather information that allows them to determine how various medical conditions may be impacting your child's development. Discovering this information is key to helping plan your child's future treatment needs.

Overall, the role of the neuropsychologist is to help provide a comprehensive evaluation of a child's level of cognitive and emotional functioning so that their doctors, teachers, therapists and family can focus on maximizing the child's quality of life. The neuropsychologist helps to design interventions specialized to each child in areas such as therapeutic services, psychological treatment, and education. Input from a neuropsychologist may help your doctor diagnosis your child with a neurodevelopmental condition, or may help guide treatment with medicines or therapy.

What should I expect during a neuropsychological evaluation?

During evaluation, the psychologist or psychometrist spends most of the day with your child to examine all aspects of their cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development. During your child's neuropsychology evaluation, they will be assessing memory, attention, problem solving, language, motor skills, and other areas of general functioning, using interview techniques, games and puzzles, and other forms of testing. The information gathered during your child's evaluation is very thorough and detailed, providing a high-quality clinical picture of how they are developing and how their medical condition may be impacting their level of functioning. This information is then used to direct future medical and sometimes surgical treatment. This type of evaluation is also very helpful when creating a child's educational or therapeutic plan to maximize their continued future success.

Further resources

<http://www.anpaonline.org/what-is-neuropsychology>

http://www.dellchildrens.net/services_and_programs/comprehensive_epilepsy_program/neuropsychological_assessment

<http://www.pss4kids.com/specialty/neuropsychology>

