

What is neuropsychology?

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

What is a pediatric neuropsychologist?

Pediatric neuropsychologists are psychologists who have special training in recognizing the relationship between the structure of the brain and how it functions in different areas, such as motor, language, memory, attention, academics, and behavior/emotion regulation. They help you understand your child's strengths and challenges and help determine how different medical conditions may be affecting your child's development. Discovering this information is key to planning your child's future treatment needs.



Overall, the neuropsychologist's role is to provide a complete evaluation of a child's strengths and challenges so that their doctors, teachers, therapists, and family can focus on maximizing the child's quality of life. The neuropsychologist helps design a medical plan specialized to your child in areas such as therapeutic services, psychological treatment, and education. Input from a neuropsychologist may help your child's doctor diagnose certain conditions and guide treatment with medicines or therapy.

What should I expect during a neuropsychological evaluation?

Depending on your child's age and level of development, the neuropsychologist, assisted by a person called a psychometrist who scores tests, spends part of the day with your child. They use standardized activities and tests that assess motor skills and neurocognitive abilities, such as language functioning, visual processing, memory, attention, problem-solving, and organization. They will ask you questions about your child and have you fill out questionnaires.



Sometimes the child also fills out questionnaires about how they are thinking and feeling. The information gathered during your child's evaluation is very thorough, providing a high-quality clinical picture of how they are developing and how their medical condition may be affecting their functioning. This information is then used to direct future medical and sometimes surgical treatment. This type of evaluation also helps us create your child's educational or therapeutic plan to maximize their continued success.

Resources and References:

<https://www.anpaonline.org/what-is-neuropsychology>
[Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Center - Partners in Care](#)