

What Kind Of Tests Will Be Given My Child?

The components of your child's psychoeducational evaluation depend on your concerns and the needs of your child. The following is a brief description of what your child's psychoeducational evaluation may include:

Intelligence Tests

Usually referred to as IQ tests, intelligence tests are norm-referenced, standardized, diagnostic tools that broadly measure traits which predict academic success. The tests most commonly used provide an overall score or estimate of your child's ability to learn what is typically taught in school. Intelligence tests can include a combination of the following: verbal/language-based tasks, nonverbal problem solving skills, short-term auditory memory, and processing speed. Subtests involved can be both timed and untimed.

Achievement Tests

These tests measure academic skills acquired through schooling (basic skills needed to master reading, math, writing, and oral-language tasks). Subtests can be both timed and untimed.

Cognitive Processing Tests

These tests measure how your child uses information when learning. Areas may involve: language, long-term memory, short-term memory, working memory, visual-spatial skills, visual-motor integration skills, auditory processing, and processing speed. Subtests can be both timed and untimed.

Behavior Rating Scales

These usually refer to checklists or rating scales which can be completed by parents, teachers, and the student. These tools can show how a student's behavior is perceived in different settings by different individuals. The rating scales can also indicate how a child perceives his or her own behavior. However, there are drawbacks to consider. Results from behavior rating scales are only accurate if the adults (parents, teachers, therapists, etc.) and the student completing them respond honestly to the questions posed. As rating scales are "subjective", various individuals can rate the same student very differently.

Personality Tests/Social-Emotional

These include rating scales, questionnaires, and projective procedures which measure your child's personality traits, behavior at home and school, and emotional adjustment. Questionnaires or interviews involve asking your child about his or her feelings in specific situations, and about fears and concerns, etc. Projective procedures indirectly evaluate your child's personality and feelings via pictures, stories, etc. Your child's responses can indicate underlying personality traits, fears, life stressors, anxiety, etc. Keep in mind that interpretation of these measures is very subjective.

Developmental Abilities

These instruments measure your child's development in the areas of adaptive skills, social-emotional functioning, communication, cognitive abilities, and motor skills.