

# Neuropsychological Evaluations

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# Who We Are

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- Integrated Center For Child Development (ICCD)
  - Multidisciplinary approach
  - Services Include
    - Neuropsychology
    - Therapy
    - Developmental Pediatrics
    - Occupational Therapy
    - Speech and Language Therapy
    - Educational Specialists
    - Neurology
- Multilingual
  - Spanish
  - Italian
  - Arabic
  - Russian

# Locations

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## **Newton Office**

193 Oak Street, Suite 1  
Newton, MA 02464

Phone: 617-658-5600  
Fax: 617-527-0640

## **Canton Office**

340 Turnpike Street  
Canton, MA 02021

Phone: 781-619-1500  
Fax: 781-619-1509



# Overview

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- Definition of Neuropsychology and Function of a Neuropsychological Assessment
- Logistics of an Assessment- What can parents expect during a standard assessment?
- Neurodevelopmental Evaluation
- Neuropsychological Assessment- Specifics
- Recommendations- What to look for in your child's testing report?
- Collaboration is key!
- Importance of follow-ups...

# What is Neuropsychology?

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The study of how the brain impacts our behavior or functioning on a day-to-day basis.

# Purpose of Neuropsychological Evaluation

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- Teases out underlying challenges that could be impacting a child's functioning
- Serves to bridge multiple disciplines
- Offers diagnostic clarity
  - Learning Disorder, Executive Functioning Deficits, Socio-Emotional diagnoses, Neurodevelopmental conditions, among others
- Recommendations both for academic environment and the home



# Logistics

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- Intake
- Typically, split up into two meetings with child
- Feedback session
- Report

# Neurodevelopmental Evaluations

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- Younger Children
  - Can be conducted as early as 9 months
  - Provide Early Diagnostics
  - Limited in scope





# Neuropsychological evaluation

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- Comprehensive evaluations
  - Intellectual
  - Academic
  - Neuropsychological
  - Psychological
  - Social
- Evaluation data from:
  - Formal quantitative data
    - Nationally Normed
  - Clinical Interview
  - Clinical Observations
  - Collateral reports

# Intellectual

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- Made up of two core domains:
  - Nonverbal Intellect
  - Verbal Reasoning
- Identification of “how we learn”
- Intellect influences our performance and capacities in other areas

# Neuropsychological

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- Executive Functioning Skills
  - Attentional Capacities
  - Organizational Skills
    - Such as planning, integrating information, identifying efficient approaches to tasks
- Memory



# Academic

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- Beginning with school aged children
- Assess performance in Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- Identification of underlying learning challenges
- Replication of measures to ensure comprehensive assessment
- Identification of other processes that can impact academic functioning
  - (i.e. processing speed, integrative deficits, etc.)

# Socio-Emotional / Psychological

- Social capacities
  - Clear historical information is important
  - Assessment of social problem solving and perspective taking skills
- Psychological
  - Objective Measures
  - Projective Measures





# Recommendations

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- Accommodations
- Placement needs and academic services
- Review of IEP and clinically-based suggestions of goal/target areas
- Referrals to ancillary supports (OT, SLP)
- Extends beyond school
  - Tutoring
  - Therapies
  - Home strategies
  - Neurology/Imaging
  - Resources



# Collaboration

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- Goal is to work collaboratively with school district
- Differences between evaluations
- Why it's important to share findings with your school
- Also important to share with:
  - Pediatrician
  - Therapist
  - Outside support professionals (i.e., tutors, ABA providers etc.)

# Follow Up

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- One the most valuable elements of the evaluation is tracking progress
- Interim touchpoints to school evaluations
- Identification of necessary adjustments to intervention
- Assessment at different developmental stages
- Developmental pediatrics may also fill in gaps

# Questions?

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# Contact Information

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