

## What Should I Tell My Child About the Evaluation?

What you tell your child about this evaluation depends on how much he or she can understand. Be simple and brief and relate your explanation to a problem that your child knows about such as “trouble with spelling,” or “feeling upset.” Reassure a worried child that testing involves no “shots.” Tell your child that you are trying to understand his or her problem to make things better. You may also tell the child that “nobody gets every question right,” and that the important thing is to “try your best.” Your child will probably find the neuropsychological evaluation interesting, and the detailed information that is gathered will contribute to your child’s care.

### **Rick Whatley, Ph.D.**

**Clinical Neuropsychologist**

- **Ohio Psychologist, License #6222**
- **Member of Division 40, Clinical Neuropsychology, American Psychology Association**
- **PostDoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology, Health Sciences Center, University of Oklahoma**

**Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy  
of Greater Columbus, Inc.  
4624 Sawmill Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43220**

## **THE CENTER FOR COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL THERAPY OF GREATER COLUMBUS, INC.**

---

### **Pediatric Neuropsychology**

---

### **Rick Whatley, Ph.D.**

**Clinical Neuropsychologist**

4624 Sawmill Road  
Columbus, OH 43220  
Phone: 614-459-4490

[www.ccbtcolumbus.com](http://www.ccbtcolumbus.com)

## What is a Clinical Neuropsychologist?

A neuropsychologist is a psychologist who specializes in studying brain behavior relationships. A clinical neuropsychologist is a licensed psychologist with expertise in how behavior and skills are related to brain structures and systems. They have extensive training in the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the nervous system. Clinical neuropsychologists study brain behavior relationships under very specific circumstances which are both controlled and standardized.

## Why are Children Referred for Neuropsychological Assessments?

Children are referred by a doctor, teacher, school psychologist, or other professional because of one or more problems, such as:

- Difficulty in learning, attention, behavior, socialization, or emotional control,
- A disease or inborn developmental problem that affects the brain in some way,
- A brain injury from an accident, birth trauma, or other physical stress.

A neuropsychological evaluation assists in better understanding your child's functioning in areas such as memory, attention, perception, coordination, language, and personality. This information will help you and your child's teacher, therapists, and physician provide treatments and interventions for your child that will meet his or her unique needs.

## What is Assessed?

- Learning Disabilities (LD, Dyslexia, Math Difficulties)
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Intellectual Abilities-IQ Testing
- Gifted Evaluations
- Adjustment to Major Medical Issues
- Evaluation for Mental Retardation
- Autism
- Epilepsy
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- Social Skills
- Problem Behaviors (ODD)
- Neurological Impairment
- Help with Individualized Educational Plans (IEP)

Some abilities may be measured in more detail than others, depending on the child's needs. A detailed developmental history and data from the child's teacher may also be obtained. Observing your child to understand his or her motivation, cooperation, and behavior is a very important part of the evaluation.

## What Will the Results Tell Me About My Child?

By comparing your child's test scores to scores of children of similar ages, the neuropsychologist can create a profile of your child's strengths and weaknesses. The results help those involved in your child's care a number of ways.

Testing can explain why your child is having school problems. For example, a child may have difficulty reading because of an attention problem, a language disorder, an auditory processing problem, or a reading disability. Testing also guides the pediatric neuropsychologist's design of intervention to draw on your child's strengths. The results identify what skills to work on, as well as which strategies to use to help your child.

Testing can help detect the effects of developmental, neurological, and medical problems, such as epilepsy, autism, ADHD, dyslexia, or a genetic disorder. Testing may be done to obtain a baseline against which to measure the outcome of treatment or the child's development over time.

Testing provides a better understanding of the child's behavior and learning in school, at home, and in the community. The evaluation can guide teachers, therapist, and you to better help your child achieve his or her potential.