



What is a Neuropsychological Evaluation Anyway?

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RTSC Training and Support Specialist

Technically, a neuropsychological evaluation is a comprehensive assessment of cognitive and behavioral functions using a set of standardized tests. Simply put it is an evaluation of the chain of brain functioning, which looks for the strengths or weaknesses in each link. To clarify, it is an in-depth assessment of skills and abilities linked to brain function. The evaluation measures such areas as attention, problem solving, memory, academic skills, and social-emotional functioning. Is this the same as the educational/psychological evaluation that the school completes? What are the benefits of having a private neuropsychological evaluation done? Who can complete a neuropsychological evaluation?

Only a neuropsychologist (a licensed clinical or school psychologist with a doctorate degree), and who has completed a two year fellowship in neuropsychology, can conduct the Neuropsychological evaluation. Very few school systems have a neuropsychologist on staff, so it would probably not be possible for the district to conduct the evaluation. So who should you turn to? Can it be conducted as an Independent Educational Evaluation? Does Insurance pay for it? Will the school?

“It is extremely important to keep the ultimate goals in mind during this process:

1. Identify the areas of strength and limitations that influence the success of the child.
2. Develop a Conceptualization or Owner’s Manual of the child.
3. Help establish the treatment or recommendations for the child.
4. Create a plan to address these limiting factors.”

Kevin Domingos, Boston Neuropsychological Services

“As you can see, there are many things to consider when making decisions and weighing your options,” says Kevin Domingos, PhD. Dr. Domingos will be discussing these areas to help navigate the process and provide you with the information to help during this month’s RTSC Webinar, Tuesday, May 15, 2018. To submit questions for Dr. Domingos prior to the webinar, please email mlandy@fcsn.org.