

Assessment

All children suspected of having an LD should have a psycho-educational assessment done.

Psycho-educational assessments are a means of assessing a person's strengths and weaknesses in many areas of learning. The person's potential and verbal ability is compared to his or her actual performance, and if there is a significant gap also known as a "Standard Deviation" this will pinpoint an area of weakness or even disability. Several areas of weakness are referred to as "clusters" and together often indicate a deficit severe enough that it interferes with the ability to process information and constitutes a disability.

The results are given in standardized scores which compare the child to others of his/her age. Some also give grade equivalents or percentile ranks. Tests are highly confidential and are given to the Director of Student Services, Student Support or Special Education in the district who then decides if the student is entitled to be supported in special education placement.

A good psych-ed test should include recommendations as to how the child would best learn, what adaptations and accommodations should be in place. They are reliable and highly informative.

HOW DOES MY CHILD GET AN ASSESSMENT?

Recommendation of an assessment may come from the child's school or initiated by a concerned parent. However, both parties must be in agreement for the necessity of the assessment in order for the school psychologist to become involved.

WHO ADMINISTERS THESE RESULTS?

These tests are usually administered by school psychologists. The child will more than likely be put on a waiting list that is often quite long. An alternative is to have one done by a Registered Psychologist in private practice which makes it faster but a fee is charged which is not covered under MSP (Medical Service Plan)

Have the psychologist explain point by point the results of the assessment in language you understand.

Acting upon recommendations from the assessment team, the teacher(s) will have the responsibility of implementing an individual education plan (IEP). It is very important that the teachers and parents work closely together to ensure continuity.