

The neuropsychological evaluation is the evaluation of choice when educators and parents want to answer not only “what” is going on academically, but “why?”

Neuropsychological Evaluations

When comprehensive information about a child’s brain-related strengths and weaknesses is necessary to understand potential sources of the problem to plan for an appropriate educational program, a neuropsychological evaluation is most often the best choice.

A neuropsychological evaluation looks at how the brain functions and assesses these functions separately and in various combinations. A neuropsychological evaluation is a systematic look at a wide range of cognitive processing skills that are necessary for daily living and learning in school, such as language and motor skills. It will provide information about your child’s strengths and weaknesses that can be used for educational planning.

An assessment of your child’s intelligence may also be included as part of a neuropsychological evaluation. Or, qualified school staff can conduct a comprehensive evaluation of your child, which includes intelligence and achievement tests, medical and family history, and other assessments. School staff can then provide the neuropsychologist with the results of their assessments.

A neuropsychological evaluation is conducted by a neuropsychologist, not a medical doctor or neurologist.



Who is a qualified neuropsychologist?

A neuropsychologist holds a doctorate degree in psychology and has had additional, extensive training and experience in the field of neuropsychology and physiology. They are particularly well-versed in neuroanatomy and brain/behavior relationships as well as the assessment devices that identify such relationships.



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802-876-5315

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Many states do not identify a separate licensure for a neuropsychologist, and it would be up to an Evaluation Planning Team to determine if they felt the individual had the level of training and experience necessary to fulfill this evaluation role for a student.

How do I find a qualified neuropsychologist?

To get a name of a qualified neuropsychologist, you can contact the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE), Special Education Technical Assistance Line at 802-828-1256 or the director of special education in your school district.

What areas will the neuropsychological evaluation cover?

A neuropsychological evaluation is composed of:

- A clinical interview and observations of the child.
- If possible, an interview of parents and significant others.
- A review of relevant school and/or medical records.
- The administration of a series of tests, the selection of which will depend on your child's presenting problems, the referral questions, and any documented or suspected diagnosis.

These tests measure areas of brain functioning that may include:

- Intellectual
- Sensory-perceptual (visual, tactile, auditory functioning)
- Receptive and expressive language, including auditory discrimination at quiet and noisy levels
- Motor strength, fine motor speed and dexterity
- Complex psycho-motor skills (voluntary movement)
- Problem-solving judgment
- Rate of information processing
- Internal inhibition and organizational skills
- Mental flexibility

- Memory and the capacity and methods for new learning
- Attention, concentration, and alertness
- Temporal, spatial, and sequential abilities
- Behavioral and adaptive functioning
- Executive functioning.

Resources

[Vermont Agency of Education](#)

Special Education Technical Assistance.
802-828-1256

[Vermont Association of School Psychologists](#)

An organization that addresses the needs of school psychologists in VT.

[The Vermont Psychological Association](#)

A non-profit professional association founded in 1950, representing psychologists in the state of Vermont.
802-229-5447