



Neuropsychology at GOSH

Your child has been referred for neuropsychological evaluation. The neuropsychology team at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) provides a diagnostic service to families and to medical and educational professionals involved with your child. We specialise in assessing children's learning and behavioural difficulties of the kind that usually arise from a neurological problem.

Who are we?

A consultant paediatric clinical neuropsychologist leads the team, which consists of clinical neuropsychologists, clinical psychologist, lecturers, trainee neuropsychologists, assistant neuropsychologists, research fellows and research students.

As GOSH is a teaching hospital, various members of the team may be involved in your child's assessment. Your initial appointment will usually be with a clinical neuropsychologist and another member of the team. Subsequent appointments may involve other members of the team depending on the difficulties that your child may have. You will always be able to seek information or advice from a clinical neuropsychologist. Should you have any concerns about this before your assessment, please contact us to discuss them.

What do we do?

The team will be assessing your child's academic abilities, such as reading, writing and maths, as well as his or her memory, general knowledge, attention span and intelligence. The results of the assessment will indicate any difficulties your child has and help us draw up strategies which may help. A report of the findings will be sent to you when the assessment has been completed.

Before your first appointment

Please send in an enclosed stamped addressed envelope:

- Copies of recent school reports
- Copies of any psychological reports (including educational psychologists' reports)
- Any forms we send out in advance
- Details of any medication your child is currently taking

You might also like to think of questions you wish the team to address in the assessment.



Your first appointment

A clinical neuropsychologist and another member of our team will meet you and your child and ask you about your child's difficulties, medical history and your concerns. Then we will ask your child to carry out a number of question and answer, paper and pencil tasks and puzzles.

In our experience children tend to enjoy these tasks and puzzles, and usually perform better when their parents are not in the room. Sometimes young or very shy children need a parent close at hand and we can of course arrange this. We do ask however that if a parent is present during the sessions, they remain silent and refrain from prompting their child.

Although your child is likely to enjoy the sessions with us, he or she may be quite tired after concentrating during the evaluation.

What happens next?

Further appointments may be required to complete the assessment. We will arrange a convenient time with you. Although many sessions last two to three hours, some may be spread over a day with a break for lunch. We ask parents to be around during this break, although lunch is not provided. The different tasks that we ask your child to do require marking. Following the assessment, you will be given the opportunity to discuss the results and recommendations with the psychologist.

Reports

Following completion of the assessments, a report will be written and copies sent to you, to the person referring your child and to any relevant professionals such as your family doctor (GP). This will include the scores your child achieved. It will also indicate any recommendations that are appropriate for your child. This report will take some time to prepare but we aim to send it out as soon as possible.

Research

GOSH works with its research partner, the UCL Institute of Child Health, in its continuing search for treatments and cures for childhood diseases and conditions. You and your child may be asked to take part but your commitment will be explained in detail. If you agree to participate in a research project, you will be asked to sign some consent forms. You have the right to say no and this will not affect the clinical care or service provided for your child.



Facilities at GOSH available before and after your appointments

- The Lagoon staff and visitor Restaurant located in the Morgan Stanley Clinical Building (MSCB) is open for breakfast, lunch and supper seven days a week.
- The Coffee Shop is located within the Lagoon Restaurant and offers speciality coffees with organic milk, toasted paninis, halal sandwiches, light healthy option snacks and beverages.
- The Peter Pan Café is located near main reception providing hot and cold drinks and snacks. There is also a coffee cart in the café serving speciality teas and coffees.
- The Shop is in the main reception area selling newspaper, magazines, confectionary, cards and gifts.

Questions, comments or compliments

Please complete one of our feedback questionnaires which we will offer you following the assessment. If you want to talk to someone about your experience at GOSH, please visit the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (Pals) office opposite the shop. They are open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays and 10am to 12.30pm on Saturdays.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the neuropsychology team on 020 7829 8679 ext 0146

Notes

Compiled by the Neuropsychology team in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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www.goshfamilies.nhs.uk

www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk