



Investing in **your child's potential**

Time & Financial Investments of a
Neuro-Psychoeducational Assessment

Why comprehensive evaluations matter

A note from Dr. Wright...



At every age and stage, parents face decisions that impact their child's future. From school tuition, to orthodontics to travel ball, parents must decide how and where to invest – both their time and financial – resources.

But few decisions are as foundational to a child's future as his or her social, emotional and academic development. This includes solid reading, writing, and math skills, as well as the ability to navigate the complexities of everyday life and relationships with others.

Undiagnosed academic, mental health and behavioral problems can go on to have detrimental effects that last a lifetime. Data shows that 74% of kids who display reading problems in third grade will remain poor readers into adulthood. And poor literacy is connected to risks for unemployment, low educational attainment, lack of access to healthcare, and secondary mental health conditions later in life. Children

with untreated ADHD or autism are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, loneliness and low-self-esteem due to lack of support and understanding of their unique needs.

That's why if a neuro-educational issue is suspected, early intervention with a licensed psychologist is such a wise investment. Most parents understand this importance, but often wonder why it requires such a large investment of both time and financial resources.

Accurately diagnosing neuro-educational conditions (and building corresponding treatment plans) requires careful evaluation by a psychologist. This includes time spent getting to know the child, their unique concerns and struggles, gathering data from multiple sources, evaluating and integrating the data, and then working to create customized solutions and a course of action.

Many important aspects of evaluation are often skipped by well-meaning clinicians who attempt to offer brief and inexpensive assessments, or who are forced to work quickly due to the constraints of insurance companies. This can lead to

inaccurate diagnosis and time wasted on ineffective treatment.

Families often report increased levels of stress and frustration following failed interventions (due to poor evaluations), and ultimately the need to seek out additional testing because the original testing was insufficient.

While the time and financial investment is higher at the outset for this approach, we believe it ultimately saves you time and money, as well as avoids frustration from failed treatment.

Because one of our values is transparency, we've compiled this helpful guide that explains the time and financial investment required of working with our practice.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can become partners in your child's potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Wright, Psy.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Maggie Wright, Psy.D.
Founder, Wright Psychology & Counseling





Neuro-psychoeducational Assessment, defined

Sometimes called a school-neuropsychological assessment, this is the most comprehensive type of evaluation, combining elements of neuropsychological, educational, and psychological assessment into one.

In this assessment, the psychologist evaluates many domains including cognitive/IQ, academic (reading, writing, math) and the brain processes that underlie learning in these subjects (phonological processing, orthographic awareness, visual-motor integration), as well as memory, language skills, executive functioning and attention.

In addition to these cognitive/learning domains, the neuro-psychoeducational assessment also measures mental health functioning in the areas of social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental functioning to get the complete picture of your child.

Time Investment

Our evaluations are very thorough and require anywhere from 3-10 hours of direct time spent testing. This time is generally split between 2-3 days to avoid burnout and fatigue. The entire process from start to finish takes about 4-6 weeks.

1

Parents-Only Consultation - At this session, your psychologist will review your concerns, take a detailed clinical history and design an assessment battery customized for your child.

2

Testing Sessions - Testing sessions are scheduled 2-4 weeks after the consultation appointment. Our comprehensive evaluation typically consists of two appointments that last around 3 hours each. Sometimes, the test results indicate concerns in an area not previously noted and we may ask you to bring your child in for follow up testing. We never want to leave questions unanswered if at all possible. Once the testing is completed, our psychologists go to work scoring and understanding the results.

3

Feedback Session - Upon completion of our evaluation, we will schedule a feedback session for parents only (usually 2 weeks after the last day of testing). Then, when appropriate, we schedule a separate meeting with the child/teen to talk about their results in an age-appropriate and supportive manner. These meetings help empower your child to understand their unique strengths, challenges, and learning profile.

A written report summarizing the results, as well as extensive recommendations for treatment at home and at school, is provided at the feedback session.*Our detailed reports provide the information required for obtaining Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 plans in both public and private schools.

*If for some reason your report is not completed at the time of the feedback session, it will be mailed to you within two weeks.



Financial Investment

A note about medical insurance

In most cases, while insurance does cover some aspects of testing, it does NOT pay for testing that is educational in nature, such as reading, math, writing and spelling evaluations. This means that testing for Learning Disorders is usually paid for out of pocket, even when going to an in-network provider.

In addition, medical insurance caps the number of hours that can be spent on an evaluation, which means the psychologist will either conduct an abbreviated evaluation due to the restrictions, or they will bill the family for the parts of the evaluation that weren't paid for by insurance. Many families who choose to see an "in-network" psychologist end up paying quite a bit out-of-pocket because their insurance company doesn't cover all of their testing.

At Wright Psychology and Counseling, we provide comprehensive neuro-psychoeducational testing that includes academic/ educational, cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral evaluation. We are not restricted by insurance and are free to provide the best and most comprehensive evaluations to our clients as a result. There are no surprise fees or extra costs - we have one flat rate that covers the entire process from start to finish.

And although we are a self-pay practice, our office will help you seek out-of-network reimbursement with your insurance company by providing the necessary documentation to you directly, or submitting claims on your behalf.



Financial Investment

Benefits of a self-pay practice

When seeking a psychologist to evaluate your child, the clinician's specialized expertise and approach to psychological assessment is what matters most. Often (and understandably), however, a psychologist is selected based on whether they participate with your insurance company.

It is an unfortunate reality that, due to severe cuts in reimbursement rates coupled with administrative and paperwork demands on clinicians, some of the best psychologists in our area do not participate with insurance plans at all.

The benefit of working with a self-pay practice is that:

- Psychologists are allowed to do what's best for his/her clients.
- Evaluations remain comprehensive and aren't constrained by insurance company restrictions.
- Families aren't surprised by out-of-pocket costs passed along by in-network providers due to either uncovered (educational) testing or overages for psychologists' time beyond what's covered by insurance.
- Families pay one flat fee with no surprise costs or additional fees. Collaboration with other therapists/providers, consultations with teachers, and ongoing support for the child and family are all included.
- Appointments are available without long wait lists.

Not to mention, the family is able to maintain medical privacy for their child, versus a diagnosis that remains on his/her medical record for their lifetime.

For all of these reasons, and in keeping with our mission to help children and teens reach their full potential, Wright Psychology and Counseling has chosen to operate as an out-of-network provider.



Professional Fees

- Initial consultation session \$275.
- Comprehensive Neuropsychological and Educational Assessment \$2600 (\$2725 for Dr. Wright)
- Focused Autism Diagnostic Evaluation for ages 16 months - 17 years \$1400.
- Early Childhood Autism Screening for ages 16-30 months \$575.

Counseling Professional Fees:

- Individual and Family Therapy Sessions \$165.

We accept all major credit cards, HSA and FSA cards.

CareCredit:

We accept CareCredit, a payment option to help our patients pay their bills over time. Click here www.carecredit.com/go/827DHR/ to learn more and see if you prequalify.

**Subject to credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. See carecredit.com for details.*

Insurance Information

- Wright Psychology and Counseling is a self-pay practice, but we are insurance friendly.
- We can often help you access your out-of-network benefits and file claims with your insurance to make treatment as affordable as possible.
- We are happy to file your insurance claims for you, or provide a receipt for services (superbill) for you to file claims with your insurance.

The clinical codes used in the practice are as follows. Feel free to share these codes with your insurance company.

Intake CPT Code:

90791 - 1 Unit

Evaluation CPT Codes:

96136 - 1 Unit

96137 - 15 Units

96130 - 1 Unit

96131 - 7 Units

Therapy CPT Code:

90837 - 1 Unit

