

## Psycho/Educational Assessment

Psycho/Educational assessments are provided for students who are experiencing academic difficulties and for those who require testing for school/university entry or continuance of educational support. A psycho/educational assessment includes psychological, educational and behavioural testing to provide a better understanding of a student's potential, current academic achievement as well as identify any deficits that may impact school functioning. Through a wide range of standardized measures, parent and teacher interviews, and clinical observations, a student's strengths and limitations are identified.

Information gathered from the assessment is then used to recognize specific learning disabilities or behavioural problems as well as to help develop individualized intervention procedures. Teachers and parents are provided with strategies that can be used in the home and school settings to increase the student's ability to meet their full potential.

### Components of the Psycho/Educational Assessment

**Consultation Appointment:** Consists of a one-hour session providing the psychologist an opportunity to meet the student and parents in order to discuss the family's current concerns and to identify the goals and objectives for the evaluation.

**Indirect Assessment:** Consists of record review (e.g., report cards, previous testing), interviews conducted with teachers and parents, as well as questionnaires and rating scales developed to identify attention, behavioural, social or emotional problems. Information gathered through the indirect assessment process helps to identify the primary concerns relating to a student's academic skills.

**Direct Assessment:** Consists of standardized measures and procedures designed to determine the specific skills level of the student in areas such as language, memory, intelligence, concentration, mathematics, reading, and comprehension. These direct assessment tools include the following:

- The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Fourth Edition is an individually administered clinical instrument for assessing cognitive abilities. An individual's performance on the Full Scale is generally predictive of a student's performance in a regular classroom setting.
- The Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-Third Edition is an individually administered measure of achievement. The WIAT-III subtests evaluates listening, speaking, reading, writing, and mathematics skills.
- Behavioural Observations: Environmental and motivational factors can affect academic achievement. Direct observations are conducted as part of the assessment process to gather detailed information about the contexts in which academic difficulties occur.

**Clinical Report and Feedback Session:** A feedback session is scheduled following the completion of the indirect and direct assessment components. This session provides an opportunity for the parents to review the report with the psychologist in detail and to discuss the findings and recommendations. Follow-up appointments and extended support services can also take place in the school setting if required.

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