

**What happens during the evaluation?**

A neuropsychological evaluation includes an interview with the parent for a thorough review of a child’s history. The parent/guardian will fill out questionnaires about their child’s development and behavior. The testing with your child will include paper and pencil and computer activities. The length of the appointment will vary, depending on the age of your child and tests we determine are necessary. Some appointments could last several hours with breaks taken as needed. The testing may be completed in one day or two days.

**How to prepare for your appointment:**

- Make sure your child gets a good night of sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.
- If your child is on stimulant medication such as Ritalin, check with the neuropsychologist beforehand about coordinating dosage time with testing.
- Bring any medical records, previous testing reports, school evaluations etc.
- If your child wears glasses, hearing aide or other medical device make sure you bring it.

**What happens after the evaluation?**

The neuropsychologist meets with you to review the results and writes a report for you and your doctors that gives:

- Your child’s history and test results
- An integrated way of thinking about your child’s skills and needs
- Recommendations for how to help your child at school and home
- Ideas about services and treatments

You can share the report with your child’s school.

**About Gaylord**

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, head-quartered in Wallingford, CT is a rehabilitation-focused, nonprofit health system that provides inpatient and outpatient care at every point of recovery from illness or injury to maximum function.

With locations in Cheshire, North Haven and Wallingford, Gaylord delivers a complete continuum of rehabilitation care driven by technology, research, clinical experience, and human compassion. For more information visit [www.gaylord.org](http://www.gaylord.org).

**Location**

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare  
 Outpatient Psychology Services  
 50 Gaylord Farm Road  
 Wallingford, CT 06492

**(203) 741-3413 Appointments**

(203) 284-2869 Fax  
[www.gaylord.org](http://www.gaylord.org)

Use the entrance indicating outpatient services.

**PEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

**A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**



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## The Gaylord Advantage

Medical conditions and their treatments can sometimes affect brain development. This can cause difficulties in thinking, learning, mood and behavior. The Pediatric & Adolescent Neuropsychology Program at Gaylord's Center for Brain Health helps children with medical conditions that affect the brain's ability to learn, grow, and may impede the path to reaching their highest potential.

Gaylord's team is skilled and compassionate in performing evaluations that can help you understand these challenges and create a treatment plan to help your child at home and at school. This program treats toddlers through young adults, while another specialized team focuses on treating only adults.

## What is a Pediatric Neuropsychologist?

A neuropsychologist is a clinical psychologist who has special training in how the brain affects a child's functioning. They earn a doctoral degree and have pediatric fellowship training in how learning and behavior are associated with the development of brain structures. The pediatric neuropsychologist conducts formal testing of abilities such as memory and attention, interprets the test results, makes diagnoses and recommendations. He or she may collaborate to provide treatment with other medical and mental health professionals, as well as with schools to help develop education programs for the child.

# PEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

## Who should receive a neuropsychological evaluation?

Children with medical conditions who are experiencing difficulties with their thinking, schoolwork, behavior or mood should be referred for neuropsychological testing. Referrals are made by primary care providers, neurologists and other medical and mental health specialists.

## Common medical conditions evaluated by our team include:

- Concussion to severe traumatic brain injury
- Epilepsy, stroke
- Brain tumors, leukemia/lymphoma
- Genetic disorders
- Premature/extremely low birth weight, exposure to neurotoxins
- Endocrine and hormone disorders
- Other medical conditions

## What is a neuropsychological evaluation?

An evaluation involves getting to know your child by talking with you, your child, the medical team and school. The neuropsychologist will give tests that measure:

- General intellect
- Language
- Visual-spatial skills
- Problem solving, planning, organization and flexible thinking
- Attention, new learning and memory
- Thinking speed
- Behavior and emotion

## How is this different from a school or educational evaluation?

School evaluations do not evaluate the impact of a medical condition on cognition and behavior. Our neuropsychologists have special expertise in how complex medical and brain-based disorders affect children. We assess areas of thinking that are usually not tested by school, and have the expertise to develop interventions that address the immediate and long-term impact of a medical condition on a child's cognition, behavior, and psychological functioning.

## What will the results tell about my child?

- Testing will provide you with an understanding of your child's cognitive strengths and weaknesses.
- Different childhood disorders result in specific strengths and weaknesses. These profiles can help detect the effects of developmental, neurological, and medical problems in your child.
- The results will explain why your child is having problems at school, home or in social situations.
- The evaluation will guide the medical professionals involved in their care, teachers, therapists, and you to better help your child achieve maximum potential.

