



Why Should I Have My Child Tested?

What it takes to maximize your brain's potential, and why your child's future may depend on it.

Learning Disability Assessment - An Illustration

A lab coat clad doctor strolls into an exam room where you're waiting. He carries a syringe and a sealed medication bottle. Smiling, he fills the syringe and says, "Well, there's no doubt that you're sick, but I am not positive of the exact problem. Let's inject a little of this...it worked pretty well for a few of my previous patients. Come back next week and we'll see if it worked for you, too."

Bad Medicine?

Terrified? You should be! To let a doctor treat a physical problem in that manner would be outrageous, dangerous, and absurd. So why is it that so many educational specialists attempt to solve learning problems in the same haphazard way - and why do parents let them? Too often, symptoms are treated with stock or group "solutions", without accurate knowledge of the exact cause of the problem.



Is the Future Really Hanging in the Balance?

Tomorrow's options depend on what you learn today. When it comes to learning, everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Some people can create ways to compensate for their deficiencies. Others are plagued with lifelong struggles. Left untreated, certain learning skill weaknesses can have devastating effects on academic performance, job productivity, and even social standing. For those people, life's promises quickly lose their luster. A positive step needs to be taken, and taken early.

Unfortunately, many approach learning remediation and enhancement, like the careless doctor illustrated earlier - simply applying some familiar strategy, fad, or perceived educational truism in the hope of seeing results that often do not appear. Worse yet, students are admonished to “just try harder”, and then judged as if their poor learning performance is due to laziness or lack of motivation. When little to no change occurs, parents often blame the continuing problems on bad teachers, crowded classrooms, and boring textbooks - or they excuse the struggle under the umbrella of an ADD, ADHD, or other learning disability diagnosis. Parents often grasp at anything that might offer a glimmer of hope when what they really need to do is pinpoint the root issue through accurate and effective assessments of their child’s cognitive, achievement, and emotional/social functioning.

Learning Disability Assessment - Why the Struggle?

The vast majority of contemporary educational research indicates that the root cause of most learning struggles is not lack of motivation or poor classroom instruction, but rather specific cognitive skills weaknesses. If a student is unable to process information accurately and effectively, he will likely suffer from numerous other symptoms, such as poor reading comprehension, the inability to stay focused, and difficulty following instructions accurately.

Even the best teachers and curriculum cannot make up for undetected cognitive weaknesses. And as problems carry over into different subject areas, frustrations and failure multiply and often lead to plummeting self-esteem. Some students learn to compensate early, but the skill weaknesses continue to hinder potential. Adults focus on strengths to get by, but live with lifetime limitations.

So then, is it possible that even bright students can have insufficient underlying skills that are hindering potential excellence? Yes. Our clinic often detects multiple undiscovered learning issues through our assessment process. Even straight-A students, especially in early grades, can have weak underlying cognitive skills, which can hinder them later in life. That’s why an effective cognitive skills assessment is so important.

In fact, in American schools today, far too many students work too hard to learn, read, do math, or maintain adequate grades. Even if these students are able to sustain average performance, they do so at a high cost of frustration, discouragement, and missing out on the success they are truly capable of achieving. When you consider both struggling students along with those who could excel, if a hidden cognitive weakness were to be uncovered early, you would have a strong case for the value of cognitive skills testing for everyone.

Learning Disability Assessment - Taking the First Step

Good medicine starts with an accurate diagnosis - so does good education. You shouldn’t continue to settle for methods that repeatedly produce little or no consistent change, but without specific information for each child, what choice do educators or parents have but to try what worked for others?

Any reputable medical doctor will first test to determine the source of the patient's symptoms. Likewise, any successful strategy to overcome learning problems or enhance learning skills should begin with the right tests - simple but accurate tests that can reveal a person's cognitive abilities (both weaknesses and strengths), and uncover the root cause of almost any learning difficulty.

The Tests Are the Tools

Early Life uses a variety of nationally acclaimed, peer-reviewed, cognitive ability and achievement tests developed to further enhance identification of individual skill strengths and weaknesses. Only licensed clinical psychologists, with specific and extensive training on the administration and interpretation of these tests, are legally and ethically qualified to perform these types of evaluations in the private sector. At Early Life, such broad, accurate, and definitive testing pinpoints weak underlying cognitive skills related to poor performance and serves as the foundation for individualized, effective treatment.

In addition, far too many education institutions place little emphasis on the emotional aspects associated with the learning process. Peer reviewed research is conclusively clear that learning processes are hindered when a child is suffering with undetected depression, anxiety, or other diagnosable issues.

If you believe your child has unrealized learning potential, please contact us to get his or her underlying skills assessed today. It could very well be the first step to a lifetime of faster, easier learning, as well as more satisfying social and family life experiences.