**FAQ**

**When would a neuropsychological evaluation be a service to consider for a child and what would it provide?**

There are subtle and overt indications of a child who has a learning disability or difficulty who would benefit from getting a “cognitive check up”. Parents and/or teachers may observe resistance to completing school work or homework, and hear complaints of hating school or hating to read. The child’s academic performance is frequently below expectation of parent’s and teachers’ assessment of his/her intellectual potential. There may be behaviors that are not consistent with a child’s chronological age or circumstance. The symptoms of having an attentional disorder (ADHD) may be perceived as the child being unmotivated, willfully disengaged and lazy (a red flag term). Difficulties in learning can lead to anxiety, frustration, discouragement and low self esteem as well as create conflict between parents and children.

The possible negative effects of not examining how a child learns and problem solves are significant in terms of social adjustment, academic achievement and sense of self. An evaluation of the whole child provides a learning experience for all involved to better understand the child’s cognitive and emotional functioning in order to address where help is needed to shore up areas of weakness as well as to encourage areas of strength. Children need acknowledgement of where they shine to promote ongoing mastery and pride in these skills. While parents may be apprehensive about the process, the children are often relieved at getting attention for their difficulties and welcome the opportunity to understand their struggles.

**When would a neuropsychological evaluation be a service to consider for an adult and what would it provide?**

In truth, it is never too late to undergo an evaluation if there has been a history of some of the signs discussed above as well as some longstanding concerns or questions. Some individuals wonder at the discrepancies in their abilities or do not understand the difference between their intellect, often corroborated by others, and their professional accomplishments. An evaluation provides a unique learning experience of a person’s cognitive and emotional functioning. The findings may explain some of an individual’s past and current challenges as well as suggest ways to work on areas of difficulty and strategies to enhance areas of interest and competence.

With both children and adults, there may be acute conditions that arise as a result of a medical or specific neurological disease or injury that requires an examination to assess for any disruptions in functioning.

**What would a neuropsychological evaluation entail?**

An evaluation is a process, though a time limited one, which is determined by each individual’s needs and guided by a specific referral question(s). The initial step is the clinical interview to obtain past developmental, social, academic, medical and psychiatric history that is the context for the quantitative information that follows. The patient is interviewed and with his/her permission family members, teachers, and others on the treatment team may also be involved in providing their observations. The subsequent testing includes examination of academic abilities, discrete areas of cognitive functioning, and emotional or adaptive functioning. The final meeting is the feedback session to go over the findings, address all questions and to receive recommendations for “what next”, which may include accommodations in academic or work settings, options for treatment, interventions, targeted programs and resources that provide support. Dr. Findler will generate a written report with detailed information that documents the results of the evaluation to be used as a reference and shared with others at the discretion of the individual.

Most of the evaluation is interactive with Dr. Findler with the exception of a few tasks on the computer and questionnaires for the individual and others who are familiar with him/her. The duration and number of sessions varies because this is tailored to the individual’s needs and schedule with the goal of attaining valid results that reflect optimal performance.

**Is there insurance coverage?**

Dr. Findler does not participate in any insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. She will assist in applying for preauthorization of services when required and will provide documentation that can be submitted for reimbursement from out-of-network benefits or a Health Savings Account. Payment will be expected at the time of service because Dr. Findler does not bill insurance companies directly.