

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR AN EVALUATION?

1. Try not to be overly concerned about test scores, which are only part of the evaluation process. Too much emphasis on test scores can be upsetting to children.
2. Children should never be judged solely on the basis of test scores. Test scores describe a child's strengths and weaknesses on a typical day.
3. Parents should meet with their child's teacher as often as possible. Parents and teacher(s) working together will benefit the child.
4. Parents should make sure the child is well rested on all school days and eats a balanced diet.
5. Encourage regular attendance. Tests reflect the overall achievement of the child. The more often the child is in a learning situation, the more likely he/she will do well on tests.
6. There are no specific ways to prepare for an intellectual test. Exposing children to a variety of enriching experiences may enhance their performance. Such experiences may include reading, museum visits, cultural events, etc.



STUDENT SERVICES
POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1907 South Floral Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33830
(863) 534-0961

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN REFERRED FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION



A GUIDE TO THE REFERRAL PROCESS FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN A PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION?

Several steps must be completed in the psychological evaluation process. These steps ensure your child's educational needs are being met and follow federal and state guidelines.

1. Based on teacher concerns, data will be collected regarding your child's educational progress. Parent permission will be obtained for in-school screening procedures. Information gathered may include classroom observations, intellectual and academic screening, teacher and parent data, and/or review of school and medical records.
2. The school's Intervention Assistance Team meets to review the information gathered. The team typically consists of the parents, classroom and exceptional student education teachers, school psychologist, guidance counselor, and other school personnel as needed. The team problem-solves and develops interventions appropriate for your child. You will be invited to this meeting and your participation is valued. Interventions will be implemented for a specified period of time.
3. The Intervention Assistance Team reconvenes to review interventions and determine whether a psychological evaluation is needed. If a psychological is recommended, parent permission will be obtained prior to the evaluation.

4. A referral packet is completed at the school, sent to Psychological Services at the district office, and assigned to a school psychologist. Evaluations are prioritized by the order in which they are submitted. Since a psychological evaluation is thorough and time-intensive, there may be a waiting period for your child to be seen.
5. The school psychologist will determine which test instruments will address the referral question. A psychological evaluation may include an assessment of one or more of the following areas:

Intellectual:

A measure of child's expected ability to learn and retain knowledge, and to problem-solve.

Academic:

An assessment of academic skills such as reading, mathematics, and written language.

Process:

A measure of your child's learning style (strengths and/or weaknesses).

Social-Emotional:

Assesses your child's ability to interact with the environment. Information for this area may be gathered in part through a parent interview with the school social worker.

Adaptive Behavior:

A rating of the child's functioning in a nonacademic and social setting. Information for this area may be gathered through a parent interview with the school social worker.

6. After the psychological evaluation is completed, the school psychologist scores and interprets the data. A psychological report is prepared and distributed to the school. You will be contacted regarding evaluation results and will obtain a copy of the written report from your school.
7. A meeting called a "staffing" is then scheduled by a district level staffing specialist. The staffing committee, which consists of the staffing specialist, parents, teachers, school psychologist, and other appropriate school personnel, meets to discuss the evaluation and other information gathered. The staffing committee will determine eligibility and appropriate services for the student. If a special education placement is made, recommendations will be written into an Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school counselor or your school psychologist. You may contact the school psychologist by calling your child's school or the Psychological Services department at 534-0961.