



Evelina
London
Children's Hospital

Neuropsychology service

Information for parents,
carers and families

showing
we **care**

The paediatric neuropsychology service

We are a team of specialist psychologists who see children with medical conditions that might affect their brain and development. This could be a condition they are born with, for example, a genetic disorder, or one that occurred during development, for example, epilepsy or stroke.

How are children referred?

Children are referred by a paediatric consultant at Evelina London Children's Hospital.

Once accepted, your child will go on our waiting list and we will send you a questionnaire to complete and return. This gives us useful background information before we see your child. You might also be contacted by a psychologist to hear about your specific concerns or observations. This will usually be on the phone.

If you are concerned that you have not heard from us, please contact us.

Why children are referred

Children are referred to our service to see how their condition might be affecting their thinking skills, learning, behaviour or emotional wellbeing. Children are referred for a different reasons so, depending on the concerns, a neuropsychological consultation or assessment will be offered (sometimes we offer both).

Consultation is an opportunity to discuss the difficulties in more details, apply understanding from previous assessments and give advice for school and home.

An assessment can help parents, doctors and teachers understand a child's strengths and weaknesses. For example, the findings of an assessment might help:

- doctors make decisions about medical treatments
- you understand and manage behavioural problems
- clarify the type of support your child needs at school

Cancelling or rescheduling an appointment

If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, please contact the service administrator, **phone** 020 7188 8188 extension 55705.

Please tell us as soon as possible, so we can offer the appointment to another patient.

Where you need to go

Assessments take place in the Newcomen Centre at St Thomas' Hospital (not Evelina London). This is in the South wing (marked in purple on maps). We are on the 1st floor of staircase B.

Consultations are usually offered virtually or via telephone.

What you need to bring

- Any recent school or therapy reports (not already sent).
- Glasses or hearing aids, if appropriate.
- Any aids the young person has to walk, write or draw.
- A snack and drink for your child. You can bring lunch, but there are also cafes in the hospital.
- A mobile, book, or magazine for the adult, as there will be waiting some time.

What a neuropsychological assessment involves

The psychologist will usually see your child by themselves for the assessment. The assessment takes the form of quizzes, puzzles, and pencil and paper tasks. They look at different aspects of thinking such as: intellectual ability, memory, learning and attention. This part of the assessment can take about 3, with breaks.

After the assessment

After the assessment the tasks need to be scored and interpreted, so thorough feedback cannot be given straight away. Written feedback will be provided in a report which will be shared with all medical professionals involved in your child's care. If we think it might be useful to share the report with non-medical organisations, such as the child's school, we will ask for your permission.

You will also be offered an opportunity to discuss the results and recommendations with the psychologist. This is usually a virtual session or via telephone, depending on what suits parents best.

Travelling to the hospital

Patient transport scheme

If you have difficulties travelling for medical reasons, you might be eligible for the Patient transport scheme. Please contact us to discuss this, **phone** 020 7188 2888.

Hospital travel cost scheme

If you are entitled to claim benefit payments from the government, you might be able to claim back the cost of your journey to the hospital. Please bring to your appointment evidence of your benefit status and evidence of your journey (receipts, train tickets, Oyster card statement). The receptionist at the Newcomen Centre should be able to advise you about claiming this money back.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact us, **phone** 020 7188 8188 extension 55705, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or leave a message, **email** Paediatric NeuropsychologyReferrals@gstt.nhs.uk

Paediatric neuropsychology service, Children's neurosciences, Newcomen Centre, 1st floor, South wing, St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH.

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **phone** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
email letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

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