



Evelina
London
Children's Hospital

Paediatric neuropsychology service

Information for Parents,
Carers and Families

showing
we **care**

What is the paediatric neuropsychology service?

We are a team of specialist psychologists who see children with medical conditions that may 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.

Why are children referred?

Children are referred to our service for an assessment to see how their condition may be affecting their thinking skills, learning, behaviour and/or emotional wellbeing. This is called a neuropsychological assessment.

An assessment can help parents, doctors and teachers understand a child's strengths and weaknesses. For example, the findings of an assessment may help doctors make decisions about medical treatments, help you understand and manage behavioural problems, or help clarify the type of support your child needs at school.

Children are referred for a range of different reasons, so the assessment is tailored to meet your child's specific needs.

How are children referred?

Children are normally referred by a consultant paediatric neurologist at St Thomas' Hospital.

Once referred, your child will go on our waiting list and we will send you a questionnaire to complete and return. This provides us with useful background information before we see your child.

When we can offer you an appointment, we will contact you to arrange this and send you an appointment letter. If you are concerned that you have not heard from us, then please ring us.

How can I cancel or reschedule an appointment?

If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, please contact the service administrator, **t:** 020 7188 4638 (not the hospital appointments line).

Please inform us as soon as possible, so we can offer your appointment to another patient.

Where do I need to go?

Assessments take place in the Newcomen Centre at St Thomas' Hospital (not the Evelina London Children's Hospital itself).

This is in the south wing (marked in purple on maps). We are on the 1st Floor of staircase B.

What do I need to bring with me?

- Any recent school or therapy reports (not already sent).
- Glasses and/or hearing aid, if appropriate.
- 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 they will be waiting some time.

What does a neuropsychological assessment involve?

You and your child will make one or two visits to see the psychologist. During the first interview, you can tell us more about your specific concerns or observations.

The psychologist will then 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 functioning (IQ), memory, learning and attention. This part of the assessment can take two to three hours, with breaks.

What happens afterwards?

After the assessment the tasks need to be scored and interpreted, so thorough feedback cannot be given straight away. Once the psychologist has analysed the child's performance, a report will be written. The parents and child (if appropriate) will then be given a chance to discuss the report with the psychologist. This can be at a follow-up session or via telephone, depending on what suits parents best.

The final report will be shared with all medical professionals involved in your child's care. If we think it may be useful to share the report with non-medical organisations, such as the child's school, we will seek your permission.

Travelling to the hospital

Patient transport scheme

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

Hospital travel cost scheme

If you are entitled to claim benefit payments from the Government, you may 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

Service administrator, **t:** 020 7188 4638, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or leave a message.

Paediatric neuropsychology service,
Children's neurosciences, Newcomen
Centre, Level 2, Beckett House,
St Thomas' Hospital, Westminster
Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH.

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

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm, **e:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department. **t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints)

e: complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch. **t:** 020 7188 8815

e: languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day. **t:** 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

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