

Paediatric Neuropsychology Service: Neuropsychological Assessment

This leaflet explains more about the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service at St George's Hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to one of the doctors, nurses or psychologists working with you.

What is the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service?

We are a team of specialist psychologists (called neuropsychologists) who see children with medical conditions or injuries that may affect their brain and development. This could be a condition with which they are born, for example a genetic or neurodevelopmental disorder or something that occurred during development, for example a brain injury, epilepsy or stroke.

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 well-being. This is called a **Neuropsychological Assessment**. The assessment can help identify a child's strengths and weaknesses to inform treatment and the types of strategies that might be useful at home and at school. The assessment is tailored to meet your child's needs.

Who is this service for?

Children are normally referred by their Consultant Neurologist, Neurosurgeon or Paediatrician. Once referred, your child will go on our waiting list and we will send some questionnaires for you and your child's school to complete and return to us. This provides us with useful background information. When we are able to offer an appointment we will contact you to arrange this and send an appointment letter. If you would like more information on waiting times or are concerned that you have not heard from us then please telephone.

Where do I need to go?

Neuropsychological assessments take place in two locations at St George's Hospital:

- Paediatric Psychology, 5th floor Lanesborough Wing
- Neurology Outpatients, Ground Floor, Atkinson Morley Wing

The appointment letter will have details about where the appointment is and how to get there. Please ensure your child attends with someone who can legally consent to the assessment.

What should I bring?

It is helpful to bring the following to the appointment:

- Any recent school or therapy reports (if not already sent)
- Child's red book (for information about early development)
- Glasses and/or hearing aid, if appropriate
- A snack and drink for your child

What does the assessment involve?

You will initially meet with the psychologist who will talk to you and your child about any concerns that you may have. This normally takes about one hour. The psychologist will then typically see your child by themselves to complete a range of thinking games and puzzles to assess skills such as intellectual functioning, memory, attention, language and problem solving. This typically takes two to three hours. Breaks will be provided, as needed.

What happens afterwards?

The psychologist will score and interpret the tasks that have been given, so comprehensive feedback cannot always be given on the same day. The psychologist will write a report, with the findings from the assessment used to inform recommendations to support on-going care. The psychologist will arrange a time to discuss the report with you and your child (if appropriate), which could be at the hospital or over the telephone. The final report will be shared with medical professionals and non-medical professionals (e.g. education) if parental/carer consent is given.

Getting to and from the hospital

Information about getting to the hospital, as well as a map of the hospital site, is available on our website: <https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/contact-and-find-us/find-us/site-and-travel-maps/>. If you are coming by car, please be aware that there is limited parking space available. Some children and families may be eligible for patient transport and if you would like further information please contact the Patient Transport Assessment and Booking Team on 020 8725 0808. The Hospital Travel Scheme is also available for patients on low income or receiving benefits; more information is available via CareLine on 020 8875 0500.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service or would like to speak to us about arranging an interpreter for your appointment, please contact us on 020 8725 2214 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). Out of hours, please leave an answerphone message.

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

Additional Services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111