

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The assessment will occur across 3 separate appointments.

Parent interview	Parents only appointment for the psychologist to gather background information and clarify the concerns that have prompted the assessment.	Approx. 50 minutes	\$124
Assessment	Session with the child to conduct the assessment (WISC or WIAT). Cost is per test.	45-90 minutes	\$750
<i>(Report writing)</i>	<i>Completed outside of scheduled appointments. Cost is for WISC-V only.</i>		\$200
Parent feedback session	Parents only session for the psychologist to present the findings of the assessment.	30 minutes	\$62

As noted above, there is a \$200 fee for the written report, which will be provided at the parent feedback session. The report is completed by the psychologist between the assessment appointment and the parent feedback session. The report will include the details of your child's results and recommendations, relevant to the reason for referral.

About the test:

Cognitive assessments are commonly known as "IQ tests". Together with information gathered from parents and teachers, these assessments are used to determine a child's learning potential (general intellectual ability). There are a range of different cognitive assessments available. South Coastal Health and Community Services uses the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children–Fifth Edition (WISC-V)

WISC V

The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children–Fifth Edition (WISC-V), is the latest version of the most proven and trusted measure of intelligence. The WISC-V is suitable for children from 6 years old to 16 years old. The WISC-V features a range of subtests that contribute to the calculation of five index scores and an overall IQ score. The five index scores reveal each child's unique strengths and weaknesses, as well as comparing them to an age-matched peers. These areas include:

- *Verbal Comprehension*: knowledge acquired from the environment, verbal concept formation, and verbal reasoning.
- *Visual Spatial*: ability to process visual information and understand visual-spatial relationships.
- *Fluid Reasoning*: explores a child's measures a child's ability to think abstractly and solve novel problems.
- *Working Memory*: involves attention, concentration, and mental control. It measures the child's ability to register, maintain, and manipulate visual and auditory information in conscious awareness.
- *Processing Speed*: measures a child's ability to quickly and correctly process simple visual information.

Along with other tools, the WISC-V can help contribute to diagnoses of intellectual delays, learning disorders, and attention and memory problems. When the WISC-V is used alongside an academic assessment, it can help clarify why a child is experiencing learning difficulties.

WIAT III

The Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – 3rd Edition (WIAT-III) test of academic achievement and can be administered to children and adults between the ages of 4 and 85 years. The WIAT-III consists of 11 subtests, which assess a child's skills in reading, writing, maths, and oral language. The WIAT-III can help diagnose learning disorders, and identify the academic strengths and weaknesses of a student, help inform decisions regarding eligibility for educational services and interventions.

Tips to prepare your child for the assessment:

- A cognitive assessment is not something your child can “study” for. To ensure your child performs to the best of their ability, it is best to ensure your child is well rested and not anxious.
- To help reduce your child's anxiety about the appointment, do not use the word “test” (or similar) to describe the appointment. Instead, explain that they will be doing some activities that involve blocks, picture puzzles, answering some questions, and breaking codes.
- The psychologist will do their best to monitor your child's behaviour and address any behaviours that may affect your child's performance. Short breaks can be taken during testing where it appears your child may be anxious or restless.
- Please let the psychologist know if your child has any visual, hearing, or fine motor problems that may affect their performance.
- If your child wears glasses, please ensure they have them with them during the assessment session.
- Please provide your child with a drink and snack which may help them feel more comfortable during the testing session.