

When to undertake a cognitive assessment?

A cognitive assessment is a standardised assessment investigating your child's cognitive abilities across a range of areas such as verbal and non-verbal skills, reasoning and conceptual thinking skills, working memory and speed of processing information. An overall IQ score is also obtained. At Mudgee Psychology we use the WISC-V (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children- Fifth Edition) or the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence - Fourth Edition (WPPSI- IV) depending on the child's age. A cognitive assessment may be warranted when a child is struggling with learning, having difficulty comprehending tasks, displaying poor classroom behaviour, showing inconsistencies in learning or a suspected learning disorder is present. It will assist in understanding of a child's unique learning profile – their cognitive strengths and weaknesses and how this impacts on academic progress and achievements, behaviour, socialisation, and emotional functioning. A cognitive assessment is also warranted when a child may be intellectually gifted and require additional support and extension in their learning

Assessing for Specific Learning Disorders

If your child struggles with reading, math, or writing they may suffer from a specific learning disorder and it will be important to accurately identify the underlying problems and pinpoint intervention strategies that will be effective. An Educational Assessment is used to diagnose specific learning disorders (such as dyslexia) and investigate learning strengths and weaknesses contributing to functioning in the classroom and academic outcomes. This assessment may be in combination with a cognitive assessment, or specific assessments separate to this, either way it may include:

- Selected subtests from standardised academic assessments such as the WIAT-III.
- Specific assessment of reading skills (such as Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing, Woodcock Reading Mastery)

What is involved in the assessment process?

Pre-assessment review

- Parents complete intake form, reviewed by psychologist prior to appointment
- Psychologist review of all previous assessment reports (which may include paediatric reviews, speech pathology, occupational therapy etc)

In-clinic appointment (2-6 hours)

- Brief parent interview to review developmental history and clarify reason for the assessment
- Administration of the WISC-V or WPPSI with the child; and other learning assessments if required

In-depth analysis, interpretation and report writing (~2-3 hours)

- Analysis and interpretation of the assessment results will take a qualified psychologist at least 2 hours post the assessment. Results will then be written up into a formal report. This report will be provided within 2 weeks of the assessment date, and will include recommendations for home and school.

Feedback session (30-45min), booked a fortnight post assessment date.

- Parent feedback session to go through results from assessment

Assessment Fees

Note: No Medicare rebates apply. Private health funds may provide full or partial rebates.

Assessment	Fee (includes report)
Cognitive Assessment	\$780
FULL Educational Assessment, without Cognitive Assessment	\$890
Dyslexia / Reading Diagnostic Assessment (with Cognitive Assessment)	\$1350
Dyslexia / Reading Diagnostic Assessment (without Cognitive Assessment)	\$890