

**LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM (LDP)
COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING DISABILITIES EVALUATION
GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Learning Disabilities Program, a private practice group of the Children’s Hospital Neurology Foundation, provides a **Comprehensive Learning Disabilities Evaluation** for children who are experiencing a lack of success in school or who have specific difficulties with academic achievement. Emphasizing a neuropsychological approach to diagnosis and management, the evaluation seeks to understand and describe the child’s learning profile in the context of school and family, especially as it impacts achievement and developmental progress.

Each child sees **five specialists** over the course of one day of testing. A key feature of our comprehensive evaluation and the cornerstone for understanding the child is an interdisciplinary integration of findings from individual evaluations. For that reason, **we require that all children participate in all components of testing.**

Children Eligible for the LDP Evaluation: The program is appropriate for children age 7 to 15 ½. Children must have completed first grade by the time of the evaluation. **Children who are not within the appropriate age range, who have been diagnosed with PDD, autism, or mental retardation, who are not fluent in English, or who have significant motor or sensory impairments are better served through other programs at Children’s Hospital.** The program coordinator can provide referral information.

Components of LDP Evaluation:

Neurological Consultation	A general neurological evaluation as well as an extended neurological exam is conducted, including evaluation of strength, reflexes, coordination, and fine and gross motor skills. Structured questionnaires are reviewed to assess the presence of an attention disorder.
Neuropsychological Testing	A selection of cognitive tests, in both verbal and visual spatial domains, is administered and interpreted in order to characterize the child’s overall learning profile.
Psychological Evaluation	Both parent/guardian and child are interviewed in order to screen for the presence of emotional issues both past and present that may hinder the child’s academic and social development.
Oral & Written Language Evaluation	Understanding and use of oral language as well as interaction of language skills with reading and writing skills are assessed.
Mathematics Evaluation	An array of arithmetic, geometric, and logical tasks is administered to assess level of mathematics achievement as well as the student’s inherent strengths and weaknesses as they impact mathematical growth.
Educational Consultation & Coordination	One team member serves as case coordinator. The case coordinator interviews the parent/guardian, reviews school materials and previous testing, contacts school personnel or therapists if needed, and works with all team members to integrate the findings from all disciplines into a Coordinated Summary report. The case coordinator meets with the family to provide general feedback, typically within four weeks of the evaluation.

LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

BEFORE THE EVALUATION:

- Input from teachers is an important part of the evaluation. We ask families to **submit the appropriate forms to the school** to be completed and returned in advance of the evaluation. In addition, we ask for copies of any previous testing and a current IEP, if applicable.
- Please inform the program coordinator of **any recent or planned educational or psychological testing**. Since many tests cannot be administered more than once within a certain timeframe, recent testing can impact the results.
- To authorize payment for a student, please complete the *Authorization of Payment for Schools* and return it via fax. Please note that fees are in accordance with **rate setting regulations for private practice groups**.
- Appointments are typically scheduled three to six months in advance.
- Additional note: Specialists from the Learning Disabilities Program are unable to conduct classroom observations.

THE EVALUATION:

- Testing begins at 8 a.m. and is generally completed by 2 p.m. The evaluation is designed to be warm and child-friendly. Children are tested one-on-one with evaluators who specialize in working with children and ensure the child is comfortable during the activities presented.
- Both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests are used and are selected from the variety of accepted instruments available in response to a child's needs. Please note that a full WISC is not administered, but rather selected subtests are used. Families may make arrangements for the completion of the WISC for an additional fee.
- Because Children's Hospital is a teaching facility, LDP senior staff and trainees work collaboratively to administer testing, analyze results, and write reports. Requests for specific providers cannot be granted.

AFTER THE EVALUATION:

- Written reports are mailed within eight weeks of the testing date. In order for the school system to receive reports, the parent must sign a **Release of Information**.
- The LDP team will specify areas that warrant attention and describe approaches that should help the child. By state law, however, it is the responsibility of the school system to determine the specific provisions to carry out these recommendations.
- A feedback meeting is scheduled, typically within four weeks of the evaluation, to inform the parent of the general findings of the team. If the school would like to send a representative, this should be coordinated with the family. Specialists can be contacted following the evaluation to discuss specific questions regarding the evaluation and reports. Additional consultation is at the discretion of the specialist and may be subject to a fee.
- Please note: Specialists from the Learning Disabilities Program are unable to attend school meetings.

LEARNING DISABILITIES PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT FOR SCHOOLS

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Phone Number _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

- **ALL COMPONENTS OF TESTING MUST BE COMPLETED.**
- Each component will be the responsibility of **either the family or the school.**
- Fees have been computed in accordance with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy Regulations for private practice groups.
- This contract must specify the exact components for which the school is responsible as well as the total fee authorized by the school.

Component	Assigned to School	Assigned to Parents/Guardians
Neurological Consultation CPT 99244	<input type="checkbox"/> \$149.97 114.3 CMR 17.04 (Medicine)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$848.00
Neuropsychological Testing CPT 96118 (2.5 units) CPT 96119 (4 units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$487.11 114.3 CMR 29.04 (Psychological Services, 6.5 Units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$900.00
Psychological Evaluation CPT 96101	<input type="checkbox"/> \$393.43 114.3 CMR 29.04 (Psychological Services, 5.25 Units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
Speech & Language Evaluation CPT 96110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$208.64 114.3 CMR 39.04 (Rehabilitation Clinical Services, Audiological Services, Restorative Services, 4 Units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210.00
Reading & Written Language Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$262.91 114.3 CMR 30.04 (Team Evaluation Services)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
Mathematics Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$262.91 114.3 CMR 30.04 (Team Evaluation Services)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
Educational Consultation & Coordination	<input type="checkbox"/> \$391.88 114.3 CMR 30.04 (Team Evaluation Services, 6.25 Units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750.00
Total Assigned to School		

Authorized by _____ Date _____

School Contact _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Please fax completed form to (617) 730-0288. Feel free to call (617) 355-2868 with any questions.