

Cognitive Testing FAQs

1) How long does the testing take?

I schedule 2 hours for the appointment. Actual testing time varies from child to child, depending on age and other factors. Typical testing time takes about 1 to 1.5 hours to administer.

2) What can I expect at the visit?

- I start by bringing both child and parent into my office to help orient the child about what to expect and to give the child a chance to settle in.
- The parent will wait in the waiting area during the testing. We have complimentary wireless access for parents.
- Your child will be given opportunities for breaks. Parents should bring snacks for their child.
- If time permits, I will score the testing during a break and meet with you briefly (approximately 10-15 minutes) to review the results. Otherwise, we can arrange for an online meeting at a later date. I charge a prorated cost of \$260/hour for an additional meeting outside of this time.
- Reports are completed within a week of testing. The report will include a behavioral narrative of your child in addition to the test results.
- Schools require that I send the results directly to them. Once you have decided which schools you wish to apply to, please email me letting me know and I will send you a release of information that allows me to email the report to the school directly.

3) Can I accompany my child into the room?

Although parents cannot be in the room during testing, I do spend time at the start with both the parent and child to help ease them in. Please know that I am sensitive to working with children with various temperaments and needs, including those who are slower to warm up, more anxious, and more easily frustrated and I adjust my pace and approach in accordance to your child's individual needs as much as standardization of test administration allows. I focus on developing rapport so that your child can feel as comfortable as possible.

4) What is the cost of the evaluation?

I charge a flat-rate fee schedule for cognitive testing that is for educational planning purposes, such as private school admissions. My fee is **\$750** for cognitive testing and an additional \$300 for one area of academic testing, such as math or reading. **I require a \$100 fee to schedule a cognitive testing appointment.** The fee is applied to the cost of the evaluation. These rates include administering, scoring, and interpreting the tests as well as a brief report and a 10-15 minute discussion of results. I charge a prorated cost of \$260/hour for any additional meeting outside of this time.

5) Can you bill my insurance for private testing?

No. Insurance does not cover testing for giftedness testing or educational planning purposes.

6) What should I tell my child about the appointment?

When discussing the visit, avoid using the word "tests" and instead explain that they will be doing some "activities". Avoid using the word "games" because most of the tasks are more like thinking tasks than games and this could create disappointment and confusion. You may also tell the child that "nobody gets every question right," and that the important thing is to "try your best."

7) What can I do as a parent to help my child before the appointment?

- Try to ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good meal before beginning testing.
- If your child wears glasses or a hearing aid or any other device, make sure to bring it and is in good working order. If your child is on medications, please coordinate the time and dose for optimal performance during testing.
- Brings snacks and something to drink. During breaks, your child can have a snack and this can be very helpful in maintaining your child's focus and energy.
- For some children it may be helpful to reinforce their efforts by offering a reward for after they complete the testing (e.g., going out to a restaurant of their choice, choosing a new toy).
- Try to allow plenty of time for finding the clinic and parking to avoid your child arriving feeling rushed.

8) Can my child receive test preparation prior to the testing?

No, there is no way to "prepare" your child for the testing content as the tests we use are protected and confidential so that they can be novel for all children. The validity of the results is based on a child *having not received coaching or test preparation*. If a child appears to have been prepped for intelligence testing, the results will be considered invalid and families will not be able to use the scores.

9) How likely is it that my child will meet the cut off score?

Each school requires a different cut off and it is recommended you are familiar with the cut off scores for the schools you are applying to. Please note that obtaining these high scores are difficult for most children (e.g., if a school requires a 95th percentile, that means that out of 100 children, only 5 will obtain a score high enough). I do not guarantee results or that a child will be admitted into a program.

10) If my child does not perform well, how long must I wait to have my child re-tested?

Retesting is complicated by the need for a certain time period to pass (often at least a year) prior to retesting in order to reduce the possibility of practice effects. If I determine that a child has taken the same test before, testing will be discontinued and the results will be considered invalid.