

Understanding Your Child's Mind: A Comprehensive Cognitive Assessment Pathway for Children and Young People Using the WISC-V

Every child is unique — and every child deserves to be understood. If your child seems to be struggling at school, finding it difficult to keep up with their peers, or showing a pattern of abilities that feels uneven or hard to explain, a comprehensive cognitive assessment can provide the clarity and understanding your family needs. Perhaps your child works incredibly hard but still finds certain tasks frustratingly difficult, or perhaps they seem bright and capable in some areas yet inexplicably challenged in others. Whatever your concerns, you are not alone — and answers are available. This online assessment pathway uses the gold-standard Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (WISC-V) to provide a thorough, compassionate, and child-friendly evaluation of your child's cognitive strengths and difficulties — administered and interpreted throughout by a skilled and experienced assessor.

Designed specifically for children and young people aged 6 to 16 years, this pathway offers a structured, professionally led assessment experience that is fully tailored to the needs of younger clients and their families. Your assessor will take every care to ensure your child feels comfortable, safe, and supported throughout, using age- appropriate language, a warm and encouraging approach, and a pace that suits your child's individual needs. Parents and carers are valued partners throughout the process, and will be fully involved at every stage — from the initial consultation through to the detailed feedback session and written report.

Rather than navigating uncertainty alone, you'll be supported by a qualified professional who brings expertise, sensitivity, and genuine care to every stage of the assessment process. The WISC-V is the most widely used and extensively validated measure of cognitive ability for children and young people available, providing a rich and nuanced profile across multiple domains of intellectual functioning. Your assessor will work collaboratively with you and your child, ensuring the whole family feels informed, heard, and supported throughout. The assessment will provide a comprehensive evaluation across the five core index scales of the WISC-V:

- **Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI)** — measuring your child's ability to understand and use language, reason with words, and draw on acquired knowledge and vocabulary

- **Visual Spatial Index (VSI)** — assessing your child's capacity for visual and spatial reasoning, including the ability to analyse and reproduce visual patterns and relationships
- **Fluid Reasoning Index (FRI)** — evaluating your child's ability to detect underlying conceptual relationships, reason inductively and deductively, and solve novel problems
- **Working Memory Index (WMI)** — measuring your child's ability to hold, manipulate, and work with information in their mind over short periods of time, which underpins many aspects of learning
- **Processing Speed Index (PSI)** — assessing the speed and accuracy with which your child processes and responds to simple visual information, which has significant implications for classroom performance and learning efficiency

In addition to these core indices, your assessor will calculate your child's Full Scale IQ (FSIQ) and General Ability Index (GAI), and where clinically indicated may also administer ancillary index scales — including the Cognitive Proficiency Index (CPI), Quantitative Reasoning Index (QRI), Auditory Working Memory Index (AWMI), and Nonverbal Index (NVI) — to provide an even more detailed and clinically meaningful picture of your child's cognitive profile. All results will be carefully interpreted in the context of your child's personal history, developmental background, educational experience, and wider clinical picture.

What Does the Assessment Process Involve?

Your child's cognitive assessment pathway will typically involve the following stages:

- **Initial parent and carer consultation** — a detailed discussion with parents or carers about your child's developmental history, educational experience, presenting concerns, and goals for the assessment, ensuring the process is fully tailored to your child's individual needs
- **Child interview** — a brief, friendly conversation with your child to help them feel at ease, understand what to expect, and ensure their own voice and perspective are heard from the very start
- **WISC-V administration** — a comprehensive, structured assessment session during which your assessor will guide your child through a series of engaging, carefully designed tasks measuring different aspects of cognitive functioning, delivered in a warm, encouraging, and child-friendly manner
- **Scoring and interpretation** — your assessor will carefully analyse your child's results, identifying their unique profile of cognitive strengths and areas of difficulty, and situating their performance within age-related normative data
- **Feedback session** — a dedicated appointment in which your assessor will walk you through your child's results in clear, accessible language, answer

your questions, and discuss the implications of their cognitive profile for their learning, education, and wellbeing

- **Age-appropriate feedback for your child** — where appropriate, your assessor will also provide your child with simple, positive, and empowering feedback about their results, helping them to understand their own mind and build confidence in their abilities
- **Written report** — a detailed, professionally written report summarising the assessment findings, your child's cognitive profile, and tailored recommendations for home, school, and any additional support, suitable for sharing with teachers, educational psychologists, SENCO staff, or other healthcare professionals as required

Flexible Appointments to Fit Around Your Family

We understand that arranging an assessment for your child shouldn't add to the pressures of busy family life. That's why appointments are available during evenings and weekends, as well as standard daytime hours — making it easier for working parents and carers to access the support their child deserves without disruption to the school day or the working week. All appointments are conducted securely online, removing the need to travel and allowing your child to complete their assessment from the comfort and familiarity of their own home — an environment in which many children feel significantly more relaxed and able to perform at their best.

Is This Pathway Right for My Child?

This pathway is designed specifically for children and young people aged 6 to 16 years, and a WISC-V cognitive assessment may be particularly valuable if your child is:

- Experiencing difficulties at school that are not fully explained by their current level of support or understanding
- Showing a pattern of uneven abilities — excelling in some areas while significantly struggling in others
- Working very hard but not achieving in line with their effort or apparent potential
- Suspected of or being assessed for a neurodevelopmental condition such as autism spectrum condition (ASC), ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, or dyscalculia
- Experiencing difficulties with memory, attention, processing speed, or organisation that are affecting their learning and daily life
- Awaiting or requiring a cognitive assessment as part of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) application or review

- In need of a cognitive profile to support an application for reasonable adjustments, additional time, or other access arrangements in school or examination settings
- A gifted or highly able child whose needs are not being fully met within their current educational setting
- Experiencing low self-esteem, anxiety, or frustration that may be linked to unidentified learning or cognitive difficulties
- Requiring a formal cognitive assessment report for educational, medical, or legal purposes

If you're unsure whether this pathway is the right fit for your child, our team will carry out an initial consultation with you to ensure the assessment is appropriate, relevant, and tailored to your child's specific needs and circumstances.

The WISC-V is designed for use with children and young people aged 6 years 0 months to 16 years 11 months. This assessment pathway is conducted by qualified and experienced professionals trained in the administration and interpretation of the WISC-V. The written report produced following your child's assessment is a formal clinical document and will be treated with the utmost care and confidentiality. Parental or carer consent is required before any assessment can take place. If you have significant concerns about your child's development, learning, or mental wellbeing, we would encourage you to speak with your child's GP, school SENCO, or paediatrician in the first instance.

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