

PR NEWS

Lorraine Freedle Applies Neuropsychology to Education

• SHARES



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• **Dr. Lorraine Freedle** has spent years studying the brain and development. She has an intricate knowledge about the relationship between the brain, behavior, and abilities. Board certified in pediatric neuropsychology, school neuropsychology and school psychology, she plays an integral role in education by conducting independent evaluations to assist parents and educational teams . She helps parents and other professionals to understand the nuances of a child’s learning profile and brain development to best inform interventions and teaching strategies.

• *How can a neuropsychologist help with education?*

Dr. Lorraine Freedle explains that a neuropsychological assessment can provide deeper insight into a child's functioning and abilities. It assesses what their specific areas of strength and weakness are and where they currently stand developmentally. It can help parents to better understand what to expect from their child at the present time, as well as the type of growth expected in the future. Based on this information, parents and educators can design an educational program to benefit the student, addressing their needs and meeting them on their level of ability.

Unlike other psychologists, neuropsychologists like Dr. Lorraine Freedle are interested in how the child's brain functions and how it relates to their behavior and development. They work to understand what the specific skills they have trouble with and why they are having difficulty. This is beneficial when designing a program to help the child develop skills, build on their strengths, and overcome challenges. The teacher can tailor their education to present information in a way that they best understand. Dr. Freedle is well-known for her ability to translate complex neuropsychological information into an understandable format and to help parents and professionals to develop informed and effective interventions based on the child's profile.

Who is tested?

Testing can occur for a variety of reasons. Oftentimes children with neurological conditions, developmental delays, brain injuries, concussion or other medical conditions undergo testing. The doctor may recommend assessment in order to get an understanding of the child's current skills and abilities. This is referred to as baseline testing. It gives them something to refer back to in the future to see how the child has progressed or regressed, explains Dr. Lorraine Freedle. Testing can also assist in diagnosing certain conditions or disabilities.

Dr. Lorraine Freedle Details Neuropsychological Testing

There are a wide variety of tests that neuropsychologists use to understand a child's brain function, behavior, skills, and abilities. They aim to get a comprehensive and detailed look at the overall performance of the child. Common tests analyze the following elements:

- Intelligence
- Academic skills
- Processing speed
- Visual-spatial perception
- Learning and memory
- Attention and concentration
- Motor skills
- Sensory perception
- Executive function
- Emotional function

Dr. Lorraine Freedle begins by talking to the parents and finding out about the child's medical history, developmental history, and what their concerns are. Testing generally takes between six and eight hours to complete. It is often broken down into more than one session to avoid fatigue and stress on the child and allow for more accurate results.

Once testing is complete, the neuropsychologist will take time to review and score the results. They will then analyze their findings and interpret them based on the child's developmental stage and medical condition. They may consult with others who are treating the child to gather more context. A full report is written detailing all of the testing performed and results. Dr. Lorraine Freedle then meets with parents to discuss the findings, their

implications, and recommendations for further actions. Dr. Freedle also meets with other professional as indicated to ensure that everyone involved with the child can make effective use of the results of the evaluation.

Preparing Children for Testing

When children hear the word “doctor” it may make them fearful of what will happen. Parents can help to ease a child’s fear by reassuring them that nothing painful will happen. They are going to go and play games, do puzzles, and all kinds of other activities. The doctor will have them talk, listen, and show them all of the great things that they are able to do.

Dr. Lorraine Freedle encourages parents to make sure that their child has gotten plenty of sleep the night before and eats a nutritious and filling breakfast in the morning. This will help them to feel refreshed and energized for testing. Results are often more accurate when the child is not overly tired or hungry. Although parents are typically not in the room during testing, they can wait close by.

After Testing

Once testing is completed and results are provided, parents can use them to better prepare for their child’s future. They will have a more detailed understanding about how their child’s brain functions, their developmental level, their ability level, and overall performance. The neuropsychologist may refer them to other specialists for additional support or interventions. This information is also very valuable when creating an individualized education plan. Educators can implement strategies and interventions to provide the most beneficial support for the child in their learning. They can teach them in a way that they are able to process and use to build skills. It also gives them a

basis for which to set realistic goals for growth and development and plan for their future. **Dr. Lorraine Freedle** provides evaluations and consultation services to support families and their needs.