

What to Expect from a Special Education Evaluation

During an evaluation, information will be gathered in many different ways. Here is what to expect:

- **A social history:** A social history will be collected through an interview process with the parent(s) of the child. An evaluator will ask questions about the child's development and the family history.
- **A psychoeducational test:** This test examines what the child can do academically and how the child learns.
- **Observation:** A member or members of the evaluation team will conduct observations of the child in their school and classroom setting or possibly in their home setting depending on the types of assessments needed. (**This may not take place with an independent evaluation.**)
- **Physical examination:** This will be conducted by the child's primary care physician. This may require a new appointment or the doctor may be able to complete the evaluation based on the child's most recent annual physical exam.
- **Other assessments:** These assessments are specific to areas of concern for the child. For example, if there are concerns about the child's speech and language skills, a speech and language assessment will take place.

Here is a list of possible assessments:

- Speech and Language
- Sign Language Fluency
- Occupational and/or Physical Therapy
- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)
- Assistive Technology (AT)
- School records
- Teacher assessments
- Interviews to determine work skills and interests, if your child is 12 or older