



Child & Family Focus

Special Topic Newsletter

A Unique Service Provider

What sets us apart from other services?

We are not generalists. Each practitioner has developed areas of expertise in child and/or family counseling. All therapists have specialized training in child and play therapy. Services are matched to individual needs. We offer comprehensive, results oriented services in 4 key areas:

- Play Therapy
- Assessment
- Mediation
- Family Counseling

Does one size fit all?

We believe services should be individually tailored, from beginning to end.

All services emphasize:

- Research based practice
- Professionalism that includes expertise, responsiveness and innovation
- Outcome focused activities
- A practical, future-oriented approach to growth and change

Should cutting edge leadership and management philosophies drive service?

We believe clients should have the expectation that all practices are monitored and professionally supervised. We pride ourselves in ongoing professional development activities and supervision by Directors who bring years of clinical and professional training experience.

Our unique facility is designed to provide a number of comfortable and flexible meeting spaces including: 4 fully equipped play therapy rooms; 2 board rooms; art-making and family meeting rooms.

RMPS is an affiliate to the Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute, which is an internationally recognized child psychotherapy and play therapy training provider and publisher.

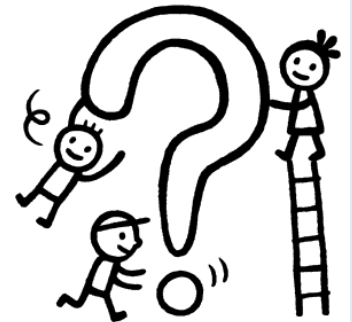
Everything you always wanted to know (or ask) about a Psychoeducational Assessment...

What is a psycho-educational assessment?

- It is a general term used to describe a comprehensive assessment of a student's cognitive (thinking) and academic/achievement skills.
- Other areas of adjustment are sometimes examined, such as attention/concentration, emotional adjustment (e.g., anxiety or depression), and behavioral issues.
- It is not a single test. It includes a battery of tests, selected based on the primary referral questions and the child's age. The two primary batteries regularly included are a cognitive evaluation (commonly known as an IQ test), as well as an academic battery (an assessment of core areas of achievement, such as reading, written language, math, oral language and spelling).

How can I tell when one is necessary?

- Classroom teachers often identify when a student is struggling with learning/achievement. While it is possible that a student may be "underachieving," and have considerable learning potential, if this continues for numerous months a more thorough investigation of learning issues is probably indicated.
- If a student is complaining about not "understanding" or struggling to keep up with daily work loads, this may indicate to the parent that learning/achievement issues require further examination.
 - When grade level achievement is reported to be more than one grade level behind in a certain area (such as reading or math), further assessment is helpful as there may be a specific learning disability.



What makes a "good" psychoeducational evaluation?

- Although evaluations typically begin with two major areas of examination (cognitive/thinking skills and academic skills), a "good" evaluation extends beyond the administration of these two batteries. A "selective assessment" process is used whereby specific areas are evaluated, based on the initial results. For example, large test batteries only assess certain types of memory; further evaluation of specific

continued on next page

Referral Guide

Referral Process:

1. Third party or client phone 245-5981
2. Fax (faxable referral forms available) 245-4137
3. Phone consultations for screening

Intake Process:

Initial inquiries are immediately responded to and followed up by a Director to ensure appropriate matching. Typically, an initial parent-consultation meeting occurs prior to meeting with children. Parents are considered an important part of the treatment planning process. In the case of adults or couples, individual plans are discussed at the first meeting.

Referral Issues:

- Children of divorce
- Separation counseling for parents
- Mediation: specialized parenting plans
- Parenting coordination
- Psychoeducational evaluations
- Behavioural issues
- Emotional adjustment difficulties (i.e., anxiety)
- Achievement, motivation & school difficulties
- Peer issues
- Grief
- Trauma
- Transitional issues
- Attachment disruptions

** Expressive and play-based approaches are ideally suited to children 2-12 years of age. Clinicians work with adults, adolescents and children – across the lifespan.

continued from previous page

memory functions may be required to understand “breakdown” points that occur in learning and, most importantly, how to support the student.

- The outcome is a lengthy report (minimum 10-12 pages), including a substantial list of specific recommendations (often for school/learning, but sometimes for home).

How long does this take?

- Each student is unique, and the length of administration for one test/battery can vary up to one-hour between children. Thus, if several tests are required, the length of time will vary even more. This being the case, psychoeducational assessments can usually be completed within 5-to-8 hours of assessment.

RMPS has an extensive test library. The clinicians are skilled evaluators and have expertise in psychoeducational evaluations. They have many years of experience working or consulting with school systems and educators. As each child is unique, the cost of this service is based on the actual work provided (hourly fee), versus a flat fee-schedule. This way, the consumer can be assured that the assessment has been appropriately tailored to the needs of the child.

**Ken Gardner
Co-Director**

Rocky Mountain Psychological Services



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

A Division of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute

Lorri Yasenik Co -Director
Ken Gardner Co-Director
Wendy Leonard – Office Manager
Dr. Alma Le Roux
Katherine Boyd
Aspen Gowers
Sylvia Balfour - Receptionist



www.rmpti.com

1318-15th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T3C 0X7 (403) 245 - 5981 Toll Free: 1 - 866 - 819 - 8805