

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatric Consult:

How it differs from psychological or psycho-educational testing

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Parents are often unclear about how to differentiate the services offered in our office from those of other professionals who evaluate and treat children with issues of learning and development. A Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrician is a **medical doctor (M.D.)** who has training in general pediatrics and additional training in the specialty of Development & Behavior in pediatrics. We are focused on understanding children's issues in the context of our broader pediatric framework.

DB Pediatricians focus on the child's development and behavior which may be causing problems. Although we are MD's we do not treat minor illnesses, perform well checkups we will work with your general pediatrician. Some of the key areas of our focus include: differentiating typical and atypical development, appropriate maturation, and the impact of the family on the issues children and adolescents face.

The testing and evaluations Developmental & Behavioral Pediatricians perform are varied but usually include assessments of: global development (including in young children milestones, motor skills, language, adaptive behavior, emotional functioning), cognitive screening, school readiness, assessment of psychological and family function, specific evaluations for autism and adhd, and impact of family and peer influence on teens. The testing we do is considered diagnostic and sufficient for some conditions, such as ADHD, Autism, Anxiety and Depression, but consists of screening for other concerns such as learning disabilities (dyslexia, dysgraphia, auditory processing disorders etc.), academic achievement, and IQ testing.

For some families the DB Pediatrician is the first step in a process that will be multidisciplinary and involve other clinicians such as psychologists, neurologists, and speech and language therapists and others. Many evaluations require a multi-disciplinary approach and many professionals will be involved. However, in other cases children may have undergone prior extensive testing from psychologists and medical professionals yet still lack in a cohesive treatment plan or comprehensive understanding of the child. In these situations our office functions as the quarterback or gate keeper of the overall clinical picture and treatment of the child or teen.

What DB pediatricians do not provide is testing which can be used for College Board or standardized testing accommodations. This invariably requires a comprehensive psycho-educational evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist. We do not perform gifted or IQ testing that can be submitted to schools, we can provide screening to determine if gifted eligibility is likely. We do use medications where needed and set up and monitor treatment plans for all of our patients. If you have been asked for a psycho-educational assessment or neuro-psychological assessment those are completed by psychologists.

For more information please view the FAQ's on our website www.draronsonramos.com