GUIDE TO ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED BY
THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Please note, the CCSN serves children from birth to age 16.)

1. Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician (DBP) Evaluation (Also called a Neurodevelopmental Evaluation)
Assesses overall cognitive, social, emotional, educational, speech and motor development. Includes a brief physical exam with attention to neurological components.
When needed:
• To diagnose various types of developmental delays/disorders and make recommendations to a child’s school and parents about how best to help the child progress.
• To help assess and develop a treatment plan for behavior problems in pre-schoolers or toddlers.
• To provide a developmental assessment of children/teens with a developmental disorder and related behavior or mood problems with recommendations for school and home.
Payment:
• Most major insurance companies cover this with proper referral by the PCP. If in doubt, check with your insurance company to see that they are contracted with Tufts Medical Center.
Formats:
• Children may be seen by a DBP for a straightforward evaluation, or in one of the following formats depending on the child’s age, and/or concerns:
  o Multi-disciplinary clinics for children from birth up to 6 years old, staffed by DBP, Speech Pathologist and Clinical Social Worker. Involves 2 visits.
  o LEAP: Multidisciplinary team evaluation staffed by DBP, Clinical Social Worker, Psychology Intern involves three visits for school age children with learning, behavioral and/or developmental issues.

2. Educational Evaluation is an in depth assessment of academic skills in reading, writing, spelling and mathematics.
When needed:
• To evaluate for suspected learning disabilities.
• To obtain detailed recommendations about the most appropriate educational programming for a child.
• To assess a child’s academic progress and the appropriateness of their IEP.
Payment:
• No insurance will pay for this. It must be paid for by the parent or by the school system.
• If the student has had a TEAM evaluation within the past 16 months the parent has a right to request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE). If not, they can request that the school test the child, then request the IEE if not satisfied after the Team meeting.

3. Reading Disabilities Identification Clinic (RIC) is an assessment to identify children ages 4-6 who may be at risk for difficulty learning to read. Early identification and treatment are critical for such children.
When Needed:
• Delayed speech or language skills.
• Difficulty with early learning and remembering (names of colors, shapes, numbers, letters, people’s names, days of the week, letters in own name)
• Difficulty with early phonics and reading skills (letter sounds, rhyming and blending sounds, remembering simple sight words, avoiding reading and writing)
Payment
• Same as for an Educational Evaluation

4. Classroom Observation
When Needed
• When there are questions about how a child’s IEP is being implemented, or how a child is responding to the classroom environment.
• Generally recommended as accompaniment to an Educational Evaluation.
• Can be useful adjunct to Speech/Language Assessment to further assess pragmatics
Payment

Revised 1-19-16
• Same as for Educational Evaluation

5. **Speech and Language Evaluation** is an in depth evaluation of a child’s expressive and receptive language abilities, their articulation of speech and their pragmatic communication skills.

**When needed:**
- If there is a S/L delay and the child hasn’t had a thorough S/L evaluation in the past year.
- Especially useful with pre-school age kids if there is a question of autism.
- As part of an IEE for kids who have a suspected language-based learning disability.

**Payment**
- Covered by most all major health insurance plans, but parent should check with their insurance. Insurance will only cover one evaluation per year. A referral is usually needed from the PCP.

6. **Neuropsychological testing** is an in depth assessment of cognitive functioning including: verbal and nonverbal intelligence; how information is processed, stored (short and long term memory), and retrieved; visual motor integration ability; executive functioning abilities. It can include a screening of emotional functioning.

**When Needed**
- For independent evaluations to identify cognitive abilities and make recommendations for educational programming.
- To further assess when there are indications of problems with processing of information, memory, executive functioning, visual motor skills or cognitive delays.
- Useful for cases of physical illness or injury that may be impacting on cognitive functioning.

**Payment**
- For coverage by insurance, testing must be related to a medical or psychiatric concern. Testing for learning problems alone is not covered by insurance.
- May qualify for school payment as an Independent Educational Evaluation (See Educational Evaluation)

7. **Social Work Intake** involves a clinical social worker meeting with a parent (usually without the child) for up to 90 minutes for the purposes of: clarifying the concerns and obtaining relevant history of the child and family. The social worker obtains permission to contact relevant third parties, and gathers any additional needed records. A service plan is developed for the child at CCSN, and recommendations may be offered re: school, home and community services.

**When Needed**
- If there are indications of psychosocial stressors (i.e. mental health issues, DCF involvement, homelessness)
- If it is really not clear what the child needs from the CCSN and more history is needed.
- To provide triage and assistance while the family waits for other CCSN appointments.
- If child is school age and will be seen as part of a LEAP evaluation.

**Payment**
- Check to see if insurance is in network with the medical center as a Behavioral Health Provider. This is billed as a Diagnostic Visit (Procedure code # 90791) with the medical center as the provider.