

Other Tips for Positive Outcomes

Parents need support to access outside evaluations or counseling. They are often desperate for a lifeline.

Why should parents have an independent evaluation of their child? First, to know more about their child. Second, to provide information for the school to consider when discussing gifted/talented services and inclusion in the gifted/talented program.

Information which will help parents select an appropriate person includes credentials, qualifications, interest and experience with gifted kids and/or adults, and expertise or specialties.

The parent and/or the child should be comfortable with the personality or style of the psychologist.

Before the day set for testing or first counseling session, it might be helpful to request a brief visit for the child to meet the psychologist, see where the test or counseling will be conducted, and find out what to expect. If the child has no previous experience being tested or working with a counselor, such a visit could enhance the child's comfort level and result in more valid results.

The fee for assessment or counseling ...

- ... will vary, depending on the services provided.

- ... might or might not be covered by insurance.

- ... might or might not be flexible or negotiable.