



Formal Diagnosis

Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

In order for individuals to receive appropriate accommodations for learning disabilities under federal law, they must have a documented diagnosis. Though programs can recommend an individual be formally diagnosed, this is each individual's choice and cannot be mandated in order to receive services.

There are four main purposes of a psycho-educational report:

- 1) to provide evaluation of a person's current functioning in:
 - a. cognitive abilities
 - b. motor skills
 - c. job skills
 - d. personality and interpersonal skills
- 2) to serve as a source of clinical hypotheses, intervention, evaluation and research
- 3) to provide baseline data to evaluate a person's progress after intervention and
- 4) to serve as a legal document

Sattler, J (2001)

The process of formal diagnostic testing can take from three to six hours, depending on the evaluator and the battery of tests selected.

GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTS



1. *The formal diagnostic narrative report is based on data obtained from a clinical interview including*
 - Authorized psychological testing and impressions
 - Psychologist's expert judgments, opinions and recommendations about
 - Type of condition or impairment
 - Impact on the ability to work or function in daily life
 - Recommendations for treatment or services

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2. *The formal diagnostic narrative report contains*

- General observations
- Personal history
- Present illness or condition
- Test results
- Diagnostic impression



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3. *The formal diagnostic narrative report contains appraisal of current functioning including*

- Interpersonal skills
- Self-direction
- Work skills
- Self-care

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4. *The formal diagnostic narrative report contains recommendations including*

- Evaluation
- Counseling
- Mental Restoration
- Training



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To link to the LD Online matrix “Who Can Diagnose LD and/or ADHD?”, go to:
http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/assessment/whocan_assessment.pdf