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TO: Families
FROM: Diane Willcutts
RE: Neuropsychologists

Education Advocacy, LLC, cannot endorse any one evaluator for any particular child. The following are pediatric neuropsychologists who have been recommended to us by parents and other evaluators. These names are offered as one place to start. You may wish to ask for additional recommendations from people you know, such as other parents, organizations supporting children with disabilities, your child's tutors and therapists, etc.

- Dr. Stacey Aronson, Westport, CT (203) 454-5555
<http://www.staceyaronsonphd.com>
- Dr. Cristina Ciocca, Farmington, CT (860) 321-7658
<http://ctneuropsychologist.com>
- Dr. Michael Fulco, Glastonbury, CT (860) 430-1602
<http://www.michaelfulcophd.com>
- Dr. Eliza Goodell, Ipswich, MA (978) 356-3989
<http://www.elizagoodell.com>

Before making an appointment, please speak with the neuropsychologist directly (not just with their administrative staff) about your child and the type of information you hope to obtain. Some pediatric neuropsychologists work only with certain age groups, some have more experience with certain abilities/disabilities, etc.

Also, be sure to ask:

1. **For what dates are they booking appointments?** (3 months or more is not uncommon.)
2. **Have they assessed students with similar needs to your child?** (This is especially important for children with less common needs, such as intellectual disabilities, those who rely on special communication devices, etc.)
3. **Regarding their training as a neuropsychologist, did they complete a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology?**
4. **Do they do all the testing themselves, or does someone else do all/part of it and the neuropsychologist writes the report?**

5. **Are they willing to make specific recommendations regarding the child's needs at school (including services, time, and qualifications of staff necessary to implement the program)?**
 - a. Some evaluators will say that they cannot do this, as these are PPT decisions and are not up to them. We agree that the PPT is not legally required to follow evaluator recommendations; however, the District is required to consider the evaluator's recommendations. Without recommendations, there is nothing meaningful to consider.
 - b. If an evaluator is not willing to make specific recommendations, this may render the evaluation useless, and the parents most likely would want to consider another evaluator.
6. **Are they comfortable making recommendations solely based on the needs of the child regardless of what they think the district will agree to?**
 - a. It is fine to share that this question is included because your child's advocate has heard from some evaluators that the reason they didn't make an important recommendation for the child in their report was that the district would never agree to it.
 - b. Also share that all we are seeking from the evaluator is for them to recommend whatever they truly believe the child needs. Getting necessary recommendations into the IEP is not the evaluator's job; it is ours.
7. **If they believe a private placement is needed, would they recommend this?**
8. **Are they willing to attend PPTs? Will they advocate for their findings? We don't anticipate having to go to a hearing, but if this were needed, would they be willing to testify on behalf of the child in a due process hearing?**
9. **If the district is paying for the evaluation, whom does the evaluator view as the client?** (Note that you need the answer to be "the child.")
10. **If the district is paying for the evaluation, will the evaluator send you and the district copies of the final report at the same time? Will the evaluator send the district a draft report prior to finalizing it?** (You should agree to the district's receiving a draft report only if the evaluator sends the draft to you at the same time as the district.)
11. **After the assessment, when will you receive a copy of the report?**
12. **Does the neuropsychologist have any possible conflicts of interest about which you should be aware?** E.g., do they have a contract with your school district? Do they regularly receive referrals from your district? (This may or may not rule out the evaluator, but parents should be aware of the information in order to make an informed decision.)
13. **If the parents are paying, what are the fees and cancellation policy? Or if the district is paying for this, what information does the neuropsychologist need from the district in order to set up the appointment?**

Prior to your child's being evaluated, be sure to draft referral questions for the evaluator to answer. E.g., does my child have a learning disability in reading? Why does my child have trouble with homework? Etc. If you are a client and need help with this, let me know.