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Evaluation for School, Attention, and Behavior Issues

Peter L Heilbronner, M.D., PhD

I look forward to evaluating your son or daughter.

The evaluation for school/attention/behavior issues tends to be different from many other medical evaluations, and this flyer will hopefully give a sense about what to expect.

I will usually ask a large number of questions to get a sense about what the causes of your child's problem are. Usually I have the child present, as children often provide valuable insights. However, if there are clearly matters that cannot be discussed in front of your son or daughter, please let me know and we will discuss such issues privately.

Areas that I will ask about include academic performance, work habits, behavior, home environment, medical history, and family history (including what conditions may run in the family). I will always do a physical examination, and in some cases I will use a screening evaluation to look for evidence of learning problems.

Further diagnostic testing may include a brainwave test (EEG) and electronic test (for age 9 and above) to assess memory and attention functions.

Interventions that might be discussed include appropriate limit setting at home, help in school, seeing a therapist, or medication.

The first visit tends to be quite thorough and a lot of questions are asked. Some families feel that they have many more things to discuss than can be fit into a 45-minute visit. In that case, I am happy to offer an extended follow-up visit for when you return.

Once again, I look forward to evaluating your child and to a positive experience for everyone.

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