



ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATES

7013-A Brookeville Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Phone: (301) 951-5666 Fax: (301) 951-3339

GT Testing Information Form

Dear parents:

Thank you for choosing Assessment Associates to administer your child's Gifted and Talented evaluation (the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition or WISC-IV). Please read this material carefully. Usually, the evaluation procedure is much more difficult for the parents than for the children! Remember that your child will take cues from you, so that if you are relaxed and comfortable, your child will tend to be relaxed and comfortable as well.

The WISC-IV is administered according to age, not grade. The age means the child's age on the day of the evaluation, not the child's age when school opens in the fall. There is no reading required on this measure. The WISC-IV is an assessment of cognitive ability, not academic achievement. (We also have measure of academic achievement available, but these are usually not required for Gifted and Talented programs admission.)

It is the parent's responsibility to know which test your child needs for the particular school or program to which you are applying. Please be certain of this before you arrive to your appointment. The WISC-IV cannot be administered to children who are younger than six on the day of the evaluation, because it is not designed or normed for younger kids.

Again, please read the literature carefully in the GT application packet you receive from the school district to which you are applying so that you are sure which test you need.

It is also important that you request a copy of Dr. Adler's professional license from the office assistant. You will need to submit this to the GT program along with your WISC-IV report.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Q & A GT Testing

We at Assessment Associates look forward to meeting you and your child. We hope the following will answer your questions about school evaluations.

Is it better to wait until my child is older to have the evaluation done?

The WISC-IV is normed in four-month increments, so that children are compared with their own age group at the time they are evaluated. For example, a child evaluated in October is compared against different norms than the same child evaluated in February. A child who is, for example, 8 years old is not compared with a child who just turned 8 years 4 months months, but only with other children who are between 8 years and 8 years, 3 months and 30 days.

How long will the evaluation take?

The WISC-IV generally takes 55 to 75 minutes to administer. These times are very approximate because some children work quickly and some work slowly, or need more time to warm up to the evaluator, or need to take a break.

Can I run errands while my child is being evaluated?

Most children and even young teens do not like to be left alone in a new environment. They do better when they know a familiar adult is waiting for them. Please plan on waiting. You may bring siblings who may play quietly. We have some toys in our waiting room.

What's the difference between Assessment Associates and other testing services?

There should be little difference because these tests are highly standardized. No matter which location you choose, the evaluation should be conducted exactly the same way. The questions and items must be given precisely as described in the evaluator's manual. The evaluator is not permitted to re-phrase items or change the administration.

Must I bring my child myself?

Children may be brought by their nanny or adult relatives if that is convenient.

What should I tell my child to prepare him or her?

You might consider telling your child something like, "We are going to do some things that will help your mom/dad decide what will be a really good school program for you next year." This lets your child know the purpose of the activities. We avoid the word "test". Your child should expect to do various activities, each of which takes about 5 or 10 minutes. For example, your child may be asked to look at pictures or work with multi-colored cubes. Most children find the activities fun. It is important that your child understand that he or she is to follow directions, not merely play with the material as the child wishes. There may be other children in the waiting room, but your child should expect to work one-to-one.

Why should I have to pay \$30 if my child gets sick and we cancel? That's not my fault!

Please understand that we have reserved time exclusively for your child. If you cancel with less than 3 days notice, we cannot fill that time with any other work. It is completely wasted time for us, while our office costs continue anyway. It also creates an inconvenience for other parents who



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wanted that time. If you cancel with more than 3 business days notice, we will refund your entire fee.

Can I watch you evaluate my child?

For older children, we expect the parents to wait in the waiting room because we need to see how the child behaves without you there. This will provide a better estimate of how the child will behave in school. However, if your child is so shy that he or she cannot separate from you, you may stay until the child is comfortable. When we write the report to the school, we include the information that the parent was in the room during the evaluation.

When can I expect results?

We usually mail results to parents within 5 to 7 business days. If you are rushing to meet a deadline, we can fax results the same day if necessary.

How does the school use the results?

Results should help assess the child's abilities, advanced curriculum readiness, and learning style. The GT committee will try to determine if your child is an appropriate match for their program. Of course, other factors besides the test results will be considered in making this decision. Results can also be used to help the program directors decide which particularly type of GT service, classroom or teacher would be most appropriate for your child.

What if my child does not do as well as I think he or she can? Can we re-test?

Most children score within the "average range", which means that their cognitive development is expected for their age. It is rarely necessary to re-test your child. Everyone scores higher the second time because there is a "practice effect." Therefore, the child cannot be re-tested on the same test for at least 6 months to a year, depending on GT program requirements within your particularly district. You can have your child re-tested using a different test. The Stanford-Binet is an alternative measure. The cost and time involved are about the same. However, most GT programs discourage re-testing.

Occasionally, the testing reveals specific problems. We then refer the parents to an appropriate professional for further evaluation or treatment. After the problem has been treated, you may want to re-test your child.

Can I speak to the evaluator about my child after the evaluation?

Results are not available immediately because we need time to score your child's responses. You will receive a written report within a week. If you have any questions, feel free to schedule a 50-minute follow through feedback session. There is an additional fee for this service.

What if I decided later to apply to other schools?

We are happy to mail, email or fax results to other schools at any time with your written permission; do not just phone us with this request. Mail us a dated request that includes your child's name and the names of the additional schools to which you want the results sent. Be sure to sign it. We keep results for several years.



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Gifted & Talented Release Form

Applicants name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Grade Applying _____

Current School _____

Parent's Names _____

Phone: Home _____ Daytime _____

Has your child taken the WISC-IV in the last 12 months? yes no

Is a language other than English spoken in the home? yes no

This evaluation measures verbal abilities, nonverbal reasoning, working memory and visual/fine-motor processing speed. It takes about 75 to 90-minutes for the WISC-IV.

To register for the evaluation, please send this form and a check for \$415.00 directly to Assessment Associates. You will receive a report in approximately one week via ground mail. You have the option of a 50-minute interpretive session following the testing. The cost of his follow-up session is \$175. We require that one adult remain in the waiting room during the assessment. If your child needs glasses, be sure to bring them. *There is a \$35 fee if you change or cancel your appointment with less than 3 business days notice, for any reason whatsoever.*

Please make sure you have a copy of Dr. Adler's license before you leave.



I verify that the above information is correct. I agree to pay the \$35 late fee if I change or cancel my appointment within less than three business days of the appointment. I understand that the evaluation results are confidential and are used for the Gifted and Talented Program purposes only.

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian





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DIRECTIONS TO ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATES AND DR. ADLER'S OFFICE

From most Northern Virginia locations:

1. Take 495 North (towards Maryland)
2. Merge **RIGHT** onto the **River Road** exit (a few miles after crossing the Potomac) and stay to your right
3. Exit **RIGHT** off the ramp onto **River Road**
4. Take a **LEFT** onto **Goldsboro Road** (about 2 to 3 miles) and stay on it until it ends (at the intersection of Bradley Blvd.)
5. Take a **RIGHT** onto **Bradley Blvd.**; Cross **Wisconsin Avenue.** and **Connecticut Avenue.** until Bradley Blvd. turns in to **Bradley Lane**)
6. Follow **Bradley Lane** until it ends (intersection of **Bradley Lane** and **Brookville Road**). You likely will not see the **Brookville Road** street sign
7. Take a **LEFT** onto **Brookville Road** for about 100 yards. You will see the Brookville Rd. shopping Center on your right
8. You should see the blue **Assessment Associates** sign above the barber shop and dry cleaners. The entrance to the practice is on the door marked 7013 A-B, directly to the right of the barber shop poll. Walk up the steps and veer to your left

From most Maryland locations:

1. Take 495 South (towards Virginia)
2. Merge **RIGHT** onto the **Connecticut Avenue** exit and stay to your left
3. Take a **LEFT** onto **Connecticut Avenue** and stay on Connecticut Avenue for **exactly 1.6 miles**
4. Take a **LEFT** onto **Taylor Street** (you will see the National 4-H center on your right)
5. Follow **Taylor Street** until it ends. Cross over **Brookville Road** (intersection of Taylor Street and Brookville Road) into the side and back parking areas.
6. You should see the blue **Assessment Associates** sign above the barber shop and dry cleaners. The entrance to the practice is on the door marked 7013 A-B. Walk up the stairs and veer to your left when you reach the top

Parking

Parking is free. You can park in the front, back or side of the shops. You can also park on the streets in the surrounding neighborhoods if the parking lot is full, which is highly unlikely.