POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICY TITLE: Assessments and Referrals Program Description (Testing and Diagnostics)

POLICY: Miriam's assessment and referrals services provide testing and referrals so students may access educational, mental health, and other related services.

1. Miriam Learning Center offers a wide variety of formal assessments to help identify why a child is struggling. The program goals are to help identify the reasons a child is having difficulties with academics and/or social, emotional and/or behavioral issues. Miriam looks at the whole child to explore these reasons.
2. Assessments include Psycho-educational Evaluations, Psycho-social evaluations, Autism Testing, Speech Assessments, Language Testing, and Occupational and Physical Therapy Assessments.
   Psycho-Educational Testing may include:
   - **Clinical Interview** with parents, teachers, and/or the student.
   - **Review of background and historical** data.
   - May include **observation(s)** of student at school.
   - **IQ testing** indicates a student's ability to learn compared to same aged peers. Depending upon the testing, scores for processing speed and working memory can be established.
   - **Academic testing** includes assessments in reading, writing, and math.
   - **Screenings** for language and visual-motor delays may occur.
   - **Mental health screenings** for anxiety, depression, behaviors, ADHD, and other DSM-5-TR conditions.

   The **Psycho-educational evaluation** helps determine a Specific Learning Disorder (Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia). Based upon testing, we may be able to determine if ADHD exists. It can identify academic weaknesses affecting a child's ability to perform to potential. This evaluation requires a minimum of two visits for testing.

   Psycho-Social Testing may include:

   - **Clinical Interview** with parents, teachers, and/or the student.
   - **Review of background and historical** data.
   - In depth **mental health background interview.**
   - May include an **observation** of the student at school.

- **Assessment in executive function skills, areas of mental health,** and when appropriate, an **Autism screening.**

This evaluation helps determine a mental health diagnosis from the DSM-5-TR such as ADHD, anxiety, mood disorders, behavior disorders, and substance abuse. Further testing may be needed to determine an Autism Diagnosis. This evaluation requires a minimum of one visit for testing.

Autism Testing may include:

- **Clinical Interview** with parents, teachers, and/or the student.
- **Review of background and historical** data.
- May include **observation(s)** of student at school.
- **IQ testing** indicates a student's ability to learn compared to same aged peers. Depending upon the testing, scores for processing speed and working memory can be established.
- **Screenings** for language and visual-motor delays may occur.
- **Mental health screenings** for anxiety, depression, behaviors, ADHD, and other DSM-5-TR conditions.
- The **ADOS** test may be included.
- **Language Testing** if the ADOS is not administered.

Autism testing is available for the entire spectrum of the disorder. Some may only require screening forms and language testing to identify if the student meets DSM-5-TR criteria. Others will require a full ADOS test to be completed. The minimum number of visits for testing depends upon the required tests. The number of visits may range from two to four.

Speech and Language Assessments may include:

- **Clinical Interview** with parents, teachers, and/or the student.
- **Review of background and historical** data.
- May include **observation(s)** of student at school.
- Standardized speech and/or language tests.
- Speech and/or language sample.

Speech testing involves intelligibility of speech that may be understood by others. Speech testing requires one visit. Language testing looks at the ability of the student to express thoughts verbally or through written communication and the ability to understand what others are communicating. Language testing takes two visits and may also include a speech assessment.

Occupational Therapy Assessments may include:

- Collection of **background and historical data.**
- Standardized testing for **gross and fine motor skills.**
- Assessment of **sensory motor skills.**
- Informal assessment of age-appropriate **functional skills.**
- **May include handwriting samples.**

An OT assessment looks at functional skills and ways to improve upon skills that are below grade expectancy. One visit is required for this evaluation.

Physical Therapy Assessments may include:

- Collection of **background and historical data.**

Informal assessment of **gait, core strength, stair climbing,** and other mobility skills

A PT evaluation assesses a student's mobility. One visit is required for this evaluation.

3. Per best practices, Miriam uses research-based, standardized tests that provide comparison scores to similar age/grade students. Miriam uses the newest tests available and replaces tests that have been updated within one year of the release of a newer test.
4. Only professionals trained in administering, scoring and interpreting tests provide testing for Miriam. Professionals who administer tests include Ph.D. Clinical Psychologists, Certified School Psychologists and School Examiners, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists.
5. Students may be referred for assessments by self, parent, teacher, guardian, mental health professional, or others involved with the student.
6. All tests are individually chosen by MLC certified or licensed employees, based upon the assessment needs of the child, the child and family's preferences and choices, and the race/cultural norms of the tests. Testing is designed to provide an appropriate treatment pathway to help children and families address academic and social, emotional, and/or behavioral concerns.
7. At the time of the referral, Miriam will disclose any identified conflicts of interest to participants prior to the applicant making a final decision regarding proceeding with testing. Examples include but are not fully inclusive of making recommendations for Miriam services on testing reports and funding restrictions or requirements.
8. All testing includes a meeting to review testing results (up to one hour), a written report with recommendations, and referrals to community resources. Parents, guardians, school personnel and other stakeholders working with the child may be included in the meeting. When appropriate, children aged 14 and older may also be included in the results meeting, at the discretion of the parent/guardian.
9. When at all possible, testing is scheduled within two weeks of the referral. The process from start to finish lasts about four weeks. A final report is issued within four weeks of reviewing the findings with family.
10. Formal evaluations may be provided for any child aged 2 to 18 if testing falls within the expertise of our assessment team. Children who require sign language, ESL interpretive services (unless provided through the child's school), or braille will be referred to other testing resources who have more expertise to accommodate these needs.
11. Certified School Psychologists and examiners, Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Counselors, Ph. D Clinical Psychologists, Licensed Speech Language Pathologists, Licensed Physical Therapists, and Licensed and Registered Occupational Therapists are employed by Miriam, and they will provide testing. Unless otherwise specified by the funding source, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker will, when appropriate, synthesize all data and provide a DSM-5-TR diagnosis.

12. Testing may be provided within the child's educational or daycare setting, at MLC treatment sites, or other community-based locations such as private spaces in libraries, schools, recreational facilities, and other locations close to a child's home.
13. Services are provided Monday through Thursday 8:00am-7:30pm and Fridays 8:00am-3:30pm. MLC is closed for most standard holidays. Testing is provided during the summer, Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 with extended hours one evening per week.
14. Depending upon the type of assessment, a child may need to attend testing for one to four sessions, which will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours each day of testing. Upon parent request, older children may be tested for longer periods in one day, provided they are given breaks.
15. MLC's Testing Specialist will schedule testing dates and times that best suit the child, his/her school, and/or the parents' schedule(s).
16. A student is discharged from assessment and referral services, when the family receives a finalized report and follow up services have occurred or the family/client no longer wishes to participate in treatment.
17. When testing is completed, a professional report is written with recommendations and referral resources. Parents and other designated individuals will meet with the evaluator for approximately one hour to review testing results and to ask/answer questions.
18. Miriam is a private pay provider. This means that we do not bill insurance and that families are responsible for the cost of testing unless funded through other means. Miriam has a limited mental health testing contract through Jefferson County Mental Health Board to provide free testing for Jefferson County resident youth up to age 19. Additionally, if resources are available, MLC testing scholarships may be provided to families who have an Adjusted Gross Income of less than $80,000 per year. Visit www.miriamstl.org. For more information, click on Miriam Learning Center, For Parents, and Financial Aid Forms.
19. If we are not able to provide testing, we will refer a child to other providers who can assess the child.
20. No protected information obtained during testing will be shared without prior written consent. When appropriate, demographic and other information may be shared with funding sources for billing and program outcome purposes.
21. The assessment and referral program description is available on line to the consumer, family, guardian, and stakeholders at miriamstl.org and a paper copy can be provided upon request.

Types of Assessments and Pricing

Pricing valid through June 30, 2026,

Comprehensive Psycho-Educational Testing $2,150

Certified school psychologists or examiners provide comprehensive psycho-educational testing and a Missouri licensed professional counselor or social worker skilled in assessment interprets testing and renders a DSM-5-TR diagnosis when appropriate. This assessment includes an extensive background history, a cognitive test (IQ), academic testing, screenings for language issues, screening for visual motor difficulties, and psychological screenings for attention or executive functioning issues or mental health concerns with behavior, anxiety, or depression. St. Louis County families may apply for free testing through CSF funds at Jewish Family and Children's Services (314-9931000) and Community Psychological Services, UMSL (314-516-5829). A wait list may apply. Free comprehensive testing may also be available through a child's school district.

Reviewed 2/27/2019, 6/2020 Revised 10/21, 3/22, 3/23, 8/24, 8/25, 2/26, 7/26

Psychological Assessment Add-On $1,000

When scores during the Comprehensive Psycho-Educational Testing indicate social, emotional, or behavioral concerns, the School Psychologist or Examiner may recommend that a Missouri Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) complete a full psychological evaluation on a child. This will require an additional parent interview, a clinical evaluation with the child, collateral information as needed from school, review of existing information, and possible school observations. The LCSW or LPC will analyze all data and if appropriate, render a DSM-5-TR diagnosis, appropriate recommendations, and referrals.

Full Psychological Assessment $1,150

A full psychological assessment may be conducted as a stand-alone evaluation for children who have adequate grades in school but who are experiencing attention issues or difficulties with social, emotional, or behavior control. This assessment includes clinical interviews with parents and teachers, a clinical assessment with the child, screenings for ADHD, Autism, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, and other mental health concerns, a professional report, and a meeting to review the recommendations, results, and referrals. St. Louis County families may also apply for free testing through CSF funds at Jewish Family and Children's Services (314-993-1000) and Community Psychological Services, UMSL (314-516-5829).

Occupational Therapy Assessment $600

This assessment will evaluate a child's fine and gross motor skills and his or her sensory issues. A licensed OTR will assess the child and make appropriate recommendations in a formal report, will review the report with the parent, and if applicable, make referrals for services. Miriam is a private pay facility for evaluations and treatment.

Physical Therapy Assessment $650

A physical therapy assessment evaluates core strength, mobility, and gait. A licensed PT will assess the child and make appropriate recommendations in a formal report, review the findings with parents, and if applicable, will make referrals for services. Miriam is a private pay facility for evaluations and treatment.

Speech and Language Assessment $965

Speech/language testing assesses children who have difficulty speaking (you have a hard time understanding what the child is saying). It also looks at receptive or expressive language. This assessment involves several tests that look at deficit areas to pinpoint what may be hindering the child's ability to communicate. This assessment also looks at social language (social pragmatics). Miriam is a private pay facility for evaluations and treatment

Speech Only Assessment $410

A speech assessment looks at articulation through one standard speech test, speech sampling, and a clinical interview. Results are compared to age-appropriate speech sounds. A Speech/language Pathologist provides a formal report and reviews findings with families/schools.

Comprehensive Autism Evaluation with ADOS $3,900

Reviewed 2/27/2019, 6/2020 Revised 10/21, 3/22, 3/23, 8/24, 8/25, 2/26, 7/26

For ages 2 to 18, a team including a Speech/language Pathologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a School Psychologist/Examiner and/or Special Education Certified Teacher administer the ADOS, cognitive and academic testing, language test(s), clinical interviews, and social/emotional/adaptive behavior rating scales to determine if Autism is present. Other DSM-5-TR diagnoses will also be considered. A comprehensive written report is provided and results are reviewed with parents.

ADOS Only Evaluation $1,150

A team of two certified or licensed professionals administer the ADOS to provide additional information that may lead to a diagnosis of Autism. The price also includes a written report and a one-hour staffing to review the results. No DSM-5-TR diagnosis will be rendered with this stand-a-lone report.

Children's Service Funding Mental Health Testing Age 3-18 Cost: $0

Jefferson County Mental Health Board funding Mental Health Testing Age 3-18 Cost $0

Call ***314.961.1500*** for questions or to schedule testing. More information can be obtained on our website at www.miriamstl.org.

Reviewed 2/27/2019, 6/2020 Revised 10/21, 3/22, 3/23, 8/24, 8/25, 2/26, 7/26