

## **Smiles All Round Educational Assessment Service**

**Psychologist, Michael Waterman will be joining the Smiles All Round team on 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to undertake educational assessments. We have a maximum of 8 appointments available. Cost \$850 per assessment.**

The assessments are similar to the educational assessments conducted at SPELD in Adelaide. By offering this service at our doorstep we are hoping this will assist families financially because that means they won't have the increased costs of travel and accommodation to undertake the same assessment process. In the past we have sent families to Adelaide because there have been no other options available locally or local psychologists have been booked out.

If you know of anyone that would benefit from an educational assessment please consider passing on our details. If you would like to know any further information please feel free to contact us. We have also attached an information sheet about the assessments that Michael can undertake.

We are so excited about this. Michael has a heart for the country and in the past he has lived and consulted in Whyalla and Port Pirie just to name a few "country" locations! Michael thoroughly enjoyed consulting in Naracoorte and is looking forward to visiting in September.

### **About Michael in a snapshot:**



Michael Waterman is a highly qualified psychologist with over 20 years' experience working in Mental Health, specialising in helping children with learning difficulties.

**He is passionate about providing psycho-educational assessments to assess children with possible Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, poor working memory or giftedness.**

He regularly attends professional developments workshops and conferences within the educational and clinical domain, to advance knowledge in assisting children and teenagers with learning difficulties.

Michael's passionate aim is to help children overcome challenges and strive to fulfil their true potential. He works closely with children, parents and school communities, including teachers, and offers comprehensive advice on individual learning programs.

Michael also offers Vocational Assessments which identifies and recommends career goals to help parents and students choose the right path to find meaningful employment.

Michael has many years' experience working in the many facets of mental health with a special interest in learning difficulties in children.

## Why conduct a Psycho-Educational Assessment?

Psycho-educational Assessments are often used to identify the following concerns that are linked to various Learning Difficulties or Strengths:

- Your child is significantly academically below their peers in reading and maths.
- A parent states that their child appears intelligent but has much difficulty putting their thoughts on paper.
- A parent reports that their child has significant difficulties attending and concentrating in the classroom.
- Your child appears to have difficulty remembering more than two or three items either at home or in the classroom.
- A parent states that their child appears to be bored and not challenged in the classroom environment.
- A Teacher has informed the parent that a Psycho-educational assessment is required to assist in the development of an individualized education plan and to be able to provide increased support to your child.
- A Teacher has raised concerns about your child's understanding of language which may also be affecting their social relationships.
- A parent reports that they are concerned that their child is distracted and/or bored in learning; or there are reports from the classroom that the child appears lazy in the classroom environment.



## **What is included in a Psycho-educational Assessment?**

A Psycho-educational assessment includes an initial consultation, a comprehensive written report and feedback with the parent. The report will provide comprehensive recommendations to assist your child learn to their potential as well as providing any recommendations for behavioural or concentration concerns. Michael will also liaise with your child's school with parent's permission to assist in developing a learning plan regarding your child's strengths and weaknesses.

## **Specific Learning Disorder Assessment**

Does your child struggle with reading, spelling or writing?

Have you noticed that if you do not say something a certain way your child does not understand you?

Do they mix up letters or jumble their sentences?

Perhaps they have trouble with numbers, time, symbols or maths?

Do they have trouble copying from the blackboard or often become frustrated in the classroom environment?

Have you noticed that your child has child appears bright but has much difficulty putting their thoughts on paper?

If so, they may suffer from a specific learning disorder such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia or Dysgraphia, or other concerns such as poor working memory and processing speed.

Learning difficulties can severely hinder learning and enjoyment of school and the education experience.

## **What is included in a Specific Learning Disorder Assessment?**

Psycho-Educational Assessments can identify underlying learning issues and provide recommendations. This will assist your child to maximize their learning potential and should be undertaken as early as possible. It provides specific direction for your child, the family and schools (particularly for the class and specialist teachers and health service providers).



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### **Psycho-Educational Assessments include:**

- Initial consultation to review academic, social and family history
- Standard cognitive Intelligence test (WISC V). The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fifth Edition (WISC-V) evaluates a variety of abilities and skills that are considered to be a part of “intelligence”
- Standardised achievement academic test (WIAT II/III). The WIAT-II/III is used as an assessment tool to provide a measure of current achievement levels in literacy and mathematics.
- Other relevant assessment tools such the Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing 2<sup>nd</sup> edition which assesses phonological awareness, phonological memory, and verbal fluency/rapid naming are used.

### **Intelligence testing identifies any underlying weaknesses your child may have in areas such as:**

- Processing speed
- Verbal learning issues
- Poor Working memory

### **Achievement testing measures skills in key academic areas such as:**

- Reading (accuracy, fluency and comprehension)
- Spelling accuracy
- Writing skills (handwriting and composition)
- Mathematics (reasoning and operating skills)