

Who will my child see at the evaluation?

Depending on the reason(s) for the referral, your child may see any of the following professionals:

School Psychologist: assesses a child's cognitive abilities by looking at how they solve problems, follow directions, and interact with the world around them.

Speech and Language Pathologist: assesses a child's ability to understand and use language, as well as their ability to produce speech sounds in words and sentences.

Occupational Therapist: assesses a child's ability to control their body in order to grasp toys, writing and feeding utensils, perform visual motor skills (i.e. puzzles, pre-writing skills and cutting), and their ability to process information within their environment.

Physical Therapist: assesses a child's ability to stabilize their body, move around their environment safely and effectively, and coordinate movements to play with toys.

A "CORE" evaluation involves at least two of the above, but may have all four team members present.

A "SUPPLEMENTAL" evaluation typically involves only one of the above professionals.



Happiness House- Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy Association is a private nonprofit educational, health and human service organization that has been serving communities in the Finger Lakes region in Upstate New York since 1969. Today with sites in Canandaigua, Geneva, Gorham, and Waterloo, Happiness House offers an array of educational, recreational and family support services for children and adults with and without disabilities who reside in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties. On average Happiness House serves 1,000 individuals and their families each year.



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 happiness HOUSE
What happens here changes lives forever.

EVALUATION TEAM



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Why is my child having an evaluation?

Children can be referred for an evaluation for many reasons. As a parent, you may have questions about whether or not your child is developing appropriately. A pediatrician may recognize signs of delay in any of the six areas of development (social/emotional, cognitive, self help, language, fine motor and/or gross motor). Your child's daycare provider or teacher may have concerns when comparing their skills to other children that they serve. The evaluation process provides an opportunity for the appropriate professionals to take a closer look at the areas of development that have caused concern.

Where is the evaluation?

For very young children (age 0-3) being evaluated through Early Intervention, evaluations often occur in the child's home. Preschool children (age 3-5) are invited to come to Happiness House (Geneva or Canandaigua) in order to best understand the child's performance in a structured, school type setting. Parents are included in the evaluation, and can be present in the evaluation room while their child is being seen. As the evaluation rooms are small, and some children can be easily distracted, it is recommended that arrangements be made for siblings to spend special time with a friend or family member whenever possible.

What do I need to bring to the evaluation?

If your child will be seeing the physical therapist, please bring their sneakers! If you are concerned with your child's feeding skills, please bring along some snacks and a drink. Otherwise, there is nothing you will need to provide.

What will my child do at the evaluation?

This depends on the age of your child and the purpose of the evaluation. Preschoolers will be encouraged to sit at a small table to complete most of the evaluation. Your child will be asked to do things like listen and point to pictures and objects, name pictures, manipulate objects, draw lines and shapes, and answer questions. Your child may also be asked to run, jump, climb stairs, kick, throw, and catch a ball. After the formal tasks have been administered, your child will have a chance to engage in free play.

Younger children are asked to do similar things, but in a less formal manner. More information can be obtained through parent interview for very young children, but older children are required to demonstrate their skills.

How long will the evaluation take?

Generally, a CORE evaluation lasts one hour. A SUPPLEMENTAL evaluation usually lasts 30—45 minutes.

When will I know how my child did?

After completing formal tasks, the evaluation team will score their tests and provide immediate feedback to you. Recommendations will be made at the end of the evaluation. If you are unable to attend the evaluation, a form will be sent home to you summarizing the results.

What happens next?

A formal report is written after the evaluation is complete, and a copy is sent to you and the school district. If you want to have a copy of the report sent to anyone else (your pediatrician or a teacher, for example), you will need to sign a release form at the time of the evaluation. A Committee for Preschool Special Education (CPSE) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting will be scheduled to discuss the evaluation and recommendations.