

CONSULTATION and EVALUATION APPOINTMENTS

What is the difference, Why is it necessary & What can I expect

The CONSULTATION: *Is there a need for evaluation or treatment?*

The Learning Fountain offers every new patient a free consultation with a therapist prior to committing to our program. At this visit, you will have the opportunity to discuss your concerns and ask questions regarding your child's specific challenges and needs. The therapist will make observations, check your child's reflexes and make specific recommendations regarding Occupational, Feeding, Speech and Language or Physical Therapy evaluations. The therapist may also determine whether it would be beneficial for you to schedule an additional consultation with a developmental pediatrician, pediatric neurologist or clinical psychologist.

- At the end of the consultation, you are welcome to tour the clinic and ask specific questions regarding our program. You will also have the option to schedule any recommended evaluation appointments.
- Our insurance coordinator will meet with you to discuss insurance coverage and payment options.

What are reflexes and why does the therapist need to check them at this visit?

Innate primary motor movements and reflex patterns are key elements of human development. They are also the fundamental neurological building blocks for all learned movements and skills and they crucially influence the development of the brain and many cognitive and intellectual processes as we mature. By checking your child's reflexes the therapist has an indication of what areas may be creating a challenge for your child.

Will I get a report from this visit?

No, during this visit your child is not considered a patient of the Learning Fountain. There are no visit notes or reports created during the initial consultation. This is a free, subjective visit.

The EVALUATION: *Identifying specific areas of concern, is treatment necessary?*

The evaluation appointment will typically last between one and two hours. During this appointment, the therapist collects information from the parent and child then administers a variety of standardized assessments which tells us where your child's skills are developmentally; these areas include Adaptive/Self Help, Fine and Gross Motor, Postural and Motor Control, Visual Perceptual Skills, Sensory Modulation and Self-Regulation.

This is an objective visit therefore all information collected regarding your child is documented. All assessments are scored and a comprehensive report is created. You will receive a copy of this report at the follow up appointment.

The FOLLOW- UP: *What do we do now?*

During the initial visit/s the therapist will go over the evaluation report, discuss findings and address goals pertaining to any challenges your child may have. The therapist will begin Occupational Therapy treatment and "teach/train" you about some areas where you can support your child at home. This may include brushing, a sensory diet or even some reflex work. You will be shown or taught on your own body as well as your child's, this gives the parent a first-hand understanding of what your child is experiencing. You will also be given a list of reading resources to enhance your understanding of Sensory/Regulation challenges. After the initial session/s, your child will be scheduled with an occupational therapist to follow through with your child's ongoing care.

What can I do to make the most of my child's therapy?

Family involvement and follow through at home is paramount to the success of the child, for this reason the first two to three visits focus on parental support. Once ongoing therapy commences you will work closely with your child's therapist through feedback and modeling, you will also continue to learn additional techniques to support your child's progress.