

The Role of Psychology in School-Based Social, Emotional and Learning Difficulties

Psychologists trained in Educational and Child Psychology assess children and diagnose difficulties they may have with learning. They then provide advice and training to parents and teachers to help children develop and learn. They will pay attention to teaching approaches, the structure and organisation of the school, advise on curriculum, and provide social and behavioural support.

When Does a Psychologist Get Involved?

Schools refer children to psychologists to seek advice on issues concerning child behaviour and learning. Parents consult psychologists for independent opinions, and for help in developing intervention plans for their children in and out of school.

What is the Purpose of a Psychological Assessment?

- *Diagnosis. A diagnosis helps to provide an understanding of the issues the child is experiencing and the treatment to consider.*
- *Students' learning profiles can be determined, and their strengths and weaknesses identified and understood. Teachers will then know what to focus their intervention on.*
- *Ensuring the right match of student and programme. Schools need to determine if they have the right resources to provide for the student's needs. Parents will have to decide if a particular school is suitable for their child.*

- *Evaluation of Learning. Assessments provide baselines from which to evaluate the child at a later date.*
- *Programme Evaluation. Assessments provide a way to assess programme efficacy.*
- *Research. Assessment expands the understanding of the child's needs and helps develop a better learning environment for all children.*

What is a School-Based Assessment?

A school assessment may be based on observations, formal testing, interviews and discussions with parents and teachers. An assessment allows the psychologist to see the children's behaviour in their natural setting and to identify elements in the environment that are helping or hindering their development and learning.

What Makes a Diagnosis Useful?

Diagnosis is a way of systematically categorising symptoms. Diagnosis influences treatment decisions that can affect the prognosis and outcome. Psychologists use the diagnoses to advise schools on an educational plan that works for the child.

What is The Role of Psychologists for Children Entering or Leaving School?

A child psychologist also works with families to plan for their children leaving school and moving on to employment or further education. They also work with parents in the



Head Psychologist, Tan Cheng Yi

early years of the child's education to enable a smooth transition from preschool to primary.

About Oasis Place

Located right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, Oasis Place is at the forefront of Malaysia's educational and developmental intervention services, providing world class, multidisciplinary intervention services to children, adolescents and adults of all abilities and ages. Oasis Place has one of the country's largest integrated intervention facilities, embracing a client-and family-centered approach.

Oasis Place serves our clients with the community of professional health providers specialising in therapies including sensory integration occupational and speech therapy, music therapy, psychological assessment and interventions. Oasis Place continues to make its mark to provide a platform for continuous education and professional development in autism and learning differences.

For more information on Oasis Place, please visit www.oasisplace.com.my