



FAQs about IQ Testing

What is an IQ (Intelligence Quotient) test?

IQ tests can come in many forms. Traditional IQ tests focus on measuring linguistic (language) and logical (analytical) intelligence. Generally, IQ tests are meant to measure the individual's overall cognitive functioning.

A typical IQ test requires your child to solve some problems in a given time under supervision. In the IQ test, there are a series of mini tests and activities to be completed by your child. Some require your child to respond to the questions verbally while others require your child to complete tasks such as make patterns, work with puzzles or blocks, and look at some pictures. Some of these mini tests are timed. Your child will need to do as many tasks in the mini tests as he or she can within a time limit. The entire IQ test takes about 1 to 2 hours to administer depending on the age of your child.



Why was my child referred for an IQ test?

The doctor will usually refer your child for IQ test for the following reasons:

- If your child has difficulty coping with his or her current school demands
- If your child has any existing medical condition or is on any medication that may affect his or her learning or thinking ability
- If your child may benefit more from a special education service rather than mainstream education
- As part of another assessment such as for learning difficulties or autism spectrum disorder

Please note that we do not administer IQ assessments for giftedness.

What are IQ scores?

An IQ score is a measure of intelligence which usually reflects reasoning ability. The higher the IQ score is, the greater the child's reasoning ability. The test scores are estimates based on the test performance on a particular day. There is always a margin of error and this is factored into the reported scores. However, it is also important to note that the score will not vary greatly from day to day.

IQ scores are one of the best predictors of academic achievement, which is a reason they are used to inform school placement recommendations. However, IQ is not necessarily the best predictor of success. IQ tests do not measure creativity, leadership, initiative, artistic talent or physical prowess even though these are components which can be defined as intelligence. For example, a talented piano player or a gifted athlete may score low on a standard IQ test, even though they may have a high ability in their area of expertise.

Can IQ scores change?

IQ is usually stable over time and, unless there are unusual circumstances, re-testing of IQ within 2 years is not recommended.

Test scores of children before 4 years old is also not likely to be accurate because their behaviour is less predictable. Hence, IQ tests are usually administered to children above 5 years old in NUH Child Development Unit (CDU).



How can I prepare my child for an IQ Test?

You cannot teach your child to answer the IQ questions although there are some steps you can take to make it a successful and enjoyable session for your child.

1. Try to schedule the IQ test when your child is at his or her best. Do not schedule the session in the afternoon if your child usually takes an afternoon nap.
2. Explain to your child in simple terms that he or she will be taking a test that requires concentration. Do not overly emphasise the importance of this test as this may create a level of anxiety in your child and may inhibit his or her performance.
3. Allow your child to have plenty of rest the night before and have a good but light meal before the assessment. You can request for a timechit to provide a formal reason for absence at school.

Depending on the age of your child and the IQ test chosen, the IQ test could last for up to 2 hours.

What tests will the psychologist be using to assess my child?

The clinic uses a variety of IQ tests. The Wechsler tests are the most common individually-administered IQ tests currently.

The psychologist may also ask you some questions about your child's behaviour (in terms of communication, daily living, social skills, etc.) by using standardised tests such as the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales.

A 2-hour appointment will be booked for the assessment. At times, additional time may be required to complete the IQ

test or to get additional information from the parents.

There are many available tests but the ones administered in CDU are those which are commonly used and recognised by other professionals.

Please note that the answers provided in this FAQ are general in nature. Parents should consult professional(s) involved in the child's care as each child has specific and unique needs.

NUH Child Development Unit

NUH Child Development Unit is part of the Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children's Medical Institute at National University Hospital. The clinic provides multidisciplinary assessments, therapy and holistic management of children with developmental & behavioural disorders from birth to 7 years old. Please make an appointment if you would like to see our paediatricians.

For health information and resources relating to child development, visit:

<https://www.nuh.com.sg/cdu-resources>

<https://www.nuh.com.sg/cdu>



Our Patient Care Institutions

National University Hospital
Ng Teng Fong General Hospital &
Jurong Community Hospital
Alexandra Hospital
National University Polyclinics
Jurong Medical Centre
National University Cancer Institute, Singapore
National University Heart Centre, Singapore
National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore
NUHS Diagnostics
NUHS Pharmacy



Scan the QR code for more information on our patient care institutions.



Scan QR code for more information on NUWoC facilities.

OneNUHS Hotline: (65) 6908 2222
OneNUHS General Enquiries: contactus@nuhs.edu.sg
OneNUHS Appointments: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg
www.nuhs.edu.sg

Take charge of your health and access health information and services across NUHS institutions.

Download the NUHS App now!



Scan to download

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment, or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.

©2024, National University Hospital. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or shared without prior permission from National University Hospital.

Information is correct at time of printing (Sep 2024) and subject to revision without prior notice.