

About CHC

The Children's Health Council (CHC) was founded in 1953 by Dr. Esther B. Clark, one of the Bay Area's first pediatricians. Her pioneering spirit lives on as we strive to make a measurable difference in the lives of children and their families who face developmental, behavioral, emotional and learning challenges. Its multidisciplinary approach and areas of expertise – children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; preschool, school-aged and adolescent group therapy; children with complex medical problems; and developmental and behavioral assessment of infants through school-aged children – make it unique among care providers in the Bay Area. CHC offers assessment and treatment services to children ages 0-18 in multiple disciplines including psychiatry, psychology, neuropsychology, social work, education, behavior management, family therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and art therapy. Services are provided through four divisions:

- the Outpatient Clinic, including information and referral
- the Esther B. Clark School, a therapeutic day school
- Educational Services, including a Parent Resource Center, Parent Education classes and Schools Attuned® teacher training
- Outcomes Measurement and Research, which evaluates CHC programs and provides consulting to other non-profits

In addition, CHC offers continuing education workshops for mental health professionals and serves as a training site for psychiatry fellows, psychology pre and post-docs, psychology interns and practicum students, and art therapy interns.

Special Focused Evaluations

Kindergarten Readiness

- Address social, language, pre-reading and mathematical concepts necessary for classroom participation. Additional components of the assessment include fine motor screening as well as an observation of a child's current preschool placement (for 4 1/2 to 6 years old).

Young Child (Ages 0-5) Team Evaluations

- Evaluate social, play, cognitive and language development.
- Evaluate motor issues (i.e., handwriting, unexplained clumsiness, sensory issues) if needed.

School Age Team Evaluations

- Provide integrated evaluations to determine a child's cognitive, academic, social and emotional strengths and weaknesses.
- Provide recommendations for interventions for school and home environments.



Special Diagnostic Team Evaluations

- Provide a thorough understanding of a child's strengths and weaknesses in the following areas: cognitive, executive functioning, speech/language, motor skills, academic abilities and social emotional functioning.
- Make recommendations that integrate the findings of the different disciplines.

Feeding Evaluation Teams

- Evaluate historical factors, which have impacted feeding, eating and weight gain, including medical conditions and developmental issues.
- Examine oral motor and oral sensory functioning.
- Assess parent-child interactions around mealtime and play, as well as other behavioral and emotional aspects of the child's functioning.
- Make recommendations that include integrated occupational and mental health interventions.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 650-688-3625.

- CHC Financial Assistance is available.
- We have Referral Specialists and Financial Counselors available to assist you.
- In addition, some Medi-Cal and/or governmental programs may cover our services.
- Families or professionals interested in our services should contact Access, Information and Referral at 650-688-3625.

Assessment Services at CHC



Intake and Triage

The Children's Health Council (CHC) is committed to making a measurable difference in the lives of children and their families. When a child is referred to CHC, one of our Referral Specialists will help parents begin to identify the child's needs and provide recommendations for next steps. If a CHC service is appropriate, a consultation appointment with a clinician is scheduled. This consultation is focused on understanding the child's needs and making initial recommendations to the family.



Evaluations

The Children's Health Council has many different professionals who can work together to assess the needs of each individual child.

Psychiatrists

- Conduct a mental status exam to assess for emotional and behavioral issues, to review the child's general health and to rule out medical reasons or risk factors as the cause of concern.
- Recommend appropriate tests or refer to other medical specialists as necessary.
- Provide diagnosis and plan for treatment.
- Establish a plan for medications, if required, to reduce the symptoms impacting the child.

Psychologists

- Complete a developmental history.
- Evaluate current developmental, cognitive and emotional strengths and weaknesses.
- Provide IQ testing, which is sometimes required by schools prior to a child's admission.
- Identify social and emotional factors that may be affecting academic functioning (i.e., peer group or family problems).
- Provide diagnosis and treatment planning as part of the evaluation.

Neuropsychologists

- Use additional assessment tools to better understand how a child's issues related to memory, attention, perception, coordination, language and personality may be associated with biological factors.
- Neuropsychologists have unique training expertise in relating learning and behavior to brain function in the developing child.

Educational Specialists

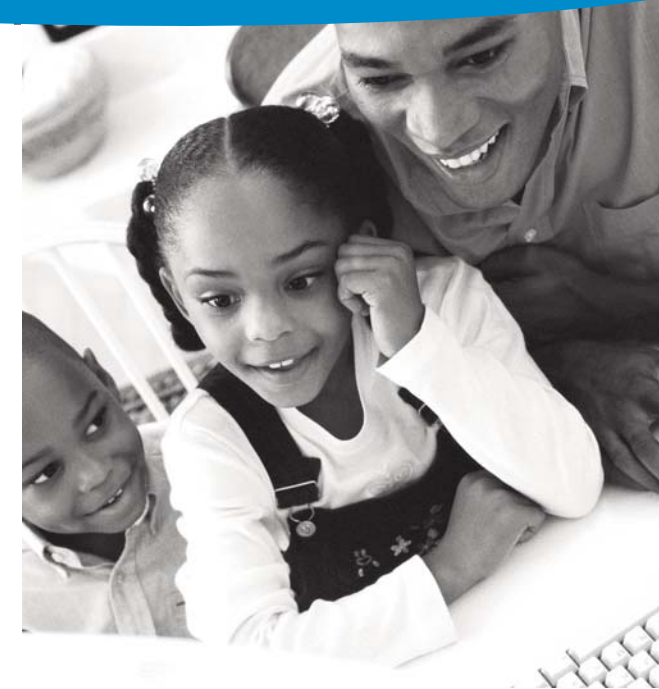
- Evaluate a child's level of academic achievement and underlying processing skills.
- Provide detailed educational recommendations utilizing the child's learning profile.
- Develop individualized plans for educational therapy, as needed.

Behavioral Specialists

- Collaborate with parents and/or school personnel to identify behavior interfering with a child's functioning at home and/or school.
- Develop a behavioral support plan outlining modifications to the environment and methods to teach new skills that will support positive growth and development for the child.

Marriage and Family Therapists / Social Workers

- Evaluate the marital or family dynamics that are impacting a child's behavior.
- Develop a plan to address specific needs for parenting.
- Provide parental effectiveness training or family therapy to support the development of family interactions that support growth and well being.
- Coordinate services with community providers.



Speech and Language Pathologists

- Measure a child's communication speech skills, including articulation and oral motor skills, syntax and grammar skills, fluency and voice quality.
- Evaluate for language and auditory processing, vocabulary, higher order language comprehension and expression, and social use of language.
- Make recommendations for treatment approaches, goals and strategies for both home and school.

Occupational Therapists

- Assess gross and fine motor skills, sensory processing ability, muscle strength and tone, postural and neuro-motor functioning.
- Evaluate for visual-perception, grapho-motor and handwriting skills, self-care and oral-motor/feeding ability, as needed.