



February 27, 2017

Tips for Finding a Psychologist or Counselor for Your Gifted Child

Finding a Professional

OAGC is not able to provide a specific list of providers or endorse providers at this time. However, please visit the “Find a Provider” links for the following organizations. These associations monitor the state licensure status of practitioners and allow families to search for providers in their area who can fulfill their needs. However, as always, just use these tools as a starting point. Engage any potential practitioner in conversation before entering into a partnership with them to ensure they understand the needs of a gifted child.

- Ohio Psychological Association Find a Provider: <http://ohpsych.site-ym.com/search/custom.asp?id=4247>
***Can search for state licensed psychologists by region, specialty, and client age. Gifted Children is one of the Treatment Areas/Specialty options, and there is a place to indicate if searching for someone to conduct an evaluation.*
- Ohio License Center Search Site: <https://license.ohio.gov/lookup/default.asp?division=97>
***This does not allow you to search by specialty. It will only provide you with a list of licensed professionals. Select the “Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board” option. Profession options that are authorized to conduct testing and formal counseling include Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, Independent Marriage and Family Therapist, and Marriage and Family Therapist. Once a list is generated, be sure to talk with each provider about their background and specialty before entering into assessment or counseling agreements.*
- SENG Mental Health Professional List: <http://sengifted.org/resources/recognized-professionals/>
***There are currently no Ohio providers who are SENG members. Check back periodically in case new members are added.*
- Psychology Today Therapists in Ohio Directory: <https://therapists.psychologytoday.com/rms/state/Ohio.html>
***Can search for providers by closest city or by zip code. There are no other filters to narrow down areas of practice, so practitioners need to be reviewed one by one. Each listed therapist has a brief bio with information about specialty and practice approach.*

Tips for Choosing the Right Professional

The SENG group has excellent brochures and articles on the topic of giftedness, which may be downloaded for free from their website. Below are some great reads before settling in on a professional partnership to assist your child.

- *Does Your Child Need Professional Help?:* <http://sengifted.org/does-your-gifted-child-need-professional-help/>
- *Decreasing Medical Misdiagnosis in Gifted Children* (to share with pediatricians and counselors/psychologists): <http://sengifted.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SENG-Misdiagnosis-in-Gifted-Children-Brochure.pdf>
- *Selecting the Right Counselor or Therapist for Your Gifted Child:* <http://sengifted.org/tips-for-selecting-the-right-counselor-or-therapist-for-your-gifted-child/>

Educational Testing

If looking for someone to assess your child, find a professional who conducts educational testing. Additionally, be sure they either are familiar with Ohio's gifted identification law or have at least referenced the approved instrument list and will assess your child using one of the many tools allowed for the purpose of gifted identification. They most likely will be equipped to assess your child with a full scale intelligence test and a full scale academic achievement test. For the purpose of gifted identification in Ohio, keep in mind the following:

- Only a school district can formally identify a child as gifted. Once a private assessor has conducted the testing, you will need to provide the results of the test to your child's school district for actual identification based on those results.
- Identification typically requires a full test to be administered. Do not settle for partial batteries of the testing (such as only a reading comprehension test rather than all parts of a reading test), as those scores cannot be used for identification.
- Brief versions of tests are also typically not accepted for gifted identification. Avoid administration of intelligence or achievement tests with the word "brief" in them.
- The Ohio Approved test list changes each year to reflect approval of new instruments and removal of outdated tests. Make sure your provider is using a test on the most recent approved list, which can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website.
- Intelligence test results should include information about the full scale IQ score and the full name of the test administered so the district can compare the score to the gifted cutoff.
- If you suspect your child may be twice exceptional, such as having ADHD or some other concern that affects processing speed, ask your assessor to use a Wechsler Intelligence Test and include the General Ability Index score and subtest scores. In certain cases, if there are large enough discrepancies, a district may be able to use that score instead of the full scale IQ score.
- Achievement test results should include percentile rank scores based on the student's grade level and should be for a complete subject area test. (ie. Total Reading or Total Math) subtest scores with a content area may not be used for gifted identification.