

**GUIDELINES TO HELP DETERMIN  
 THE NEED FOR A NEUROLOGICAL REFERRAL**

A neurologist is a medical specialist who evaluates the development and functioning of the central/peripheral nervous system. Overt disturbances of motor functioning (cerebral palsy, epilepsies, and cortical blindness or deafness) and overt neurological abnormalities (such as absence of certain reflexes or asymmetry of reflex responses) can be readily detected by a conventional neurological examination. Subtle deviations called "soft signs" are not as readily identified by a neurological exam but may indicate the presence of a physiological problem. A neurological exam may consist of: detailed medical and developmental history, examination of cranial nerves, and an assessment of all components that control motor functioning. In some cases, further diagnostic testing may also be needed.

**A neurological exam is appropriate to consider when** the staff believes that there may be a biological basis to a student's school difficulties. Medical intervention may be necessary before an effective educational plan can be developed. The following questions should be helpful when trying to determine whether or not a neurological evaluation is needed:

**I. Identify any known factor(s) which may interfere with development and educational performance:**

Specify: (Include Age at onset)

_____	Medical Diagnosis	_____
_____	Seizures	_____
_____	Hearing Loss	_____
_____	Visual Defect	_____
_____	Social	_____
_____	other	_____

**II. Please check all areas in which the child exhibits difficulties which you believe interfere with the student's ability to complete educational tasks:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Difficulty sustaining attention
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extreme ranges of activity level
- \_\_\_\_\_ Perseveration with many tasks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extreme sensitivity to external visual and/or auditory stimuli, movement or touch
- or \_\_\_\_\_ Blank stares or unexplained gaps in attention
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frequent falling, tripping...
- \_\_\_\_\_ Awkward coordination
- \_\_\_\_\_ Noticeable weakness on one side of body
- \_\_\_\_\_ Random body movements (e.g., tremors, tics)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extreme difficulty with fine/gross motor tasks

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. How do problems identified in Question II significantly interfere with such things as classroom activities, routines, and school work?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. What methods have been tried to remediate the problems listed? To what extent have they been successful?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**V. What specific information do you hope to gain from a neurological evaluation that is critical in order for you to develop an education plan for this student? (The response to this question should be used to generate referral questions.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Note: Please include this information with your referral if your team determines that a neurological evaluation is appropriate.***