The Subtle Presentation of Autism: Core Features, Gender Differences, Motivation, and Self-Regulation

FACULTY

Donna Henderson, PsyD, has been doing neuropsychological evaluations for more than 20 years. She believes that no child or teenager should have to go through life with an undiagnosed problem, feeling badly about themselves, and not knowing how to make things better. Recognizing that it is an important (and sometimes scary) decision to choose someone to help with this problem, she does everything she can to provide clarity and direction. Henderson believes that a neuropsychological evaluation can be a positive and life-changing experience and spends as much time as needed to make sure that she is determining the right diagnosis and uncovering each child's strengths as well as problem areas. Sometimes questions are focused on schoolwork, but just as often there are concerns about a child's social skills, emotions, or behavior. There can be many reasons for these issues, and she believes it is important to find clarity about all of the aspects of a child's functioning. Henderson is also aware that it is important to have a clearly written report as quickly as possible after an evaluation and works hard to make that happen.

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Nonfinancial Disclosures
- None

William R. Stixrud, PhD, is a clinical neuropsychologist who has been in private practice since 1985. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty of the Children’s National Medical Center and holds a faculty appointment as Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the George Washington School of Medicine. He has previously held an appointment at the Georgetown University Medical School and has served as a consultant to the Division of Neuropsychology at the National Institutes of Health. For the past 20 years, Stixrud has been extensively involved in the training and supervision of psychologists and learning specialists. He is also a frequent lecturer on topics related to neuropsychological assessment, learning and executive disorders, brain development, brain-based learning, motivation, and the effects of stress and sleep deprivation on the brain. He is the author of a book, Plain Talk About Early Education and Development, and he has authored book chapters and/or articles on children with epilepsy, adolescent brain development, self-esteem, homework, and the effects of Transcendental Meditation on students with ADHD. Stixrud has been quoted often in publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Washingtonian, The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Barron’s, and Vogue. He holds a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota. He did his pre-doctoral internship in Pediatric and Clinical Psychology at the Children’s Hospital of Boston, as a fellow of the Harvard Medical School, and received his post-doctoral training in Clinical Neuropsychology at the Tufts New England Medical Center. Prior to entering private practice, Stixrud worked as a staff neuropsychologist at the Children’s National Medical Center and the Georgetown University Medical School.
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