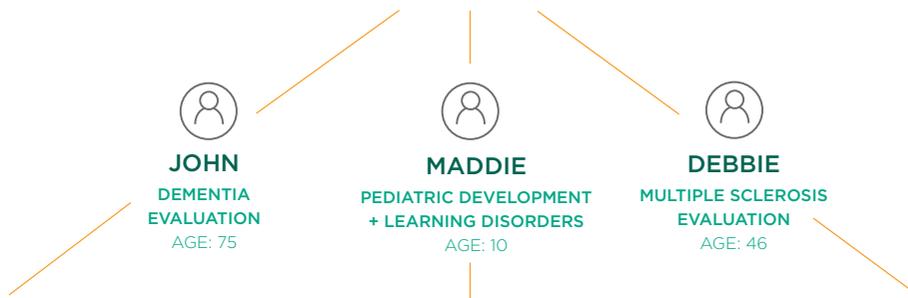


What is the role of a neuropsychologist, exactly?

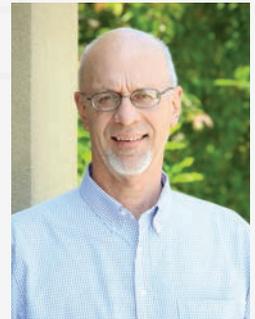
On With Life’s neuropsychologists, David Demarest, PhD, CBIST, and Allison Logemann, PsyD, CBIS, specialize in understanding the brain and how changes to it can affect an individual’s memory, behavior, emotions, concentration, and overall ability to process information. Below are three examples of how and when a neuropsychological evaluation can be helpful.



John was referred by his physician due to concerns about memory, attention, social changes and decision-making and to determine if these changes were related to dementia, depression, or normal age-related changes. Through the evaluation it was determined that John showed some difficulty in making and remembering new memories and rapid changes in mood. John did not meet criteria for dementia but was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment. With this information, John and his family were able to help him get appropriate medical care and change his lifestyle pattern and behaviors to accommodate for these cognitive changes. In addition, this evaluation served as a baseline for future testing.

“Maddie,” was referred by her pediatrician with questions of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and learning disorder after observations by parents, teachers, counselors, and physicians showed emotional and learning challenges. The evaluation included a review of medical and education records, including her existing Individualized Education Program (IEP), and an interview with her parents. After testing and a review of all records/interviews, the neuropsychologist determined Maddie to have a diagnosable ADHD, without autism, and elements of a learning disorder (specifically dyslexia). The family was referred for ADHD treatment and received recommendations to support Maddie’s ongoing schooling, including suggested updates to her IEP.

“Debbie,” was referred by her neurologist after she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). Cognitive changes can occur as part of the MS disease process and an evaluation helps to determine a cognitive baseline. Debbie had noticed more cognitive changes (disorganization, word-finding, difficulty planning and prioritizing) when stressed or fatigued. Testing showed that Debbie had only mild weaknesses in visuospatial processing (ability to perceive and analyze patterns and images), attention, and processing speed, which is consistent with her diagnosis and consistent with the degree of the lesion burden noted on brain imaging. The neuropsychologist was also able to provide recommendations regarding lifestyle and the effectiveness of Debbie’s current medication regimen.



Drs. Demarest and Logemann are able to provide evaluations for individuals of all ages and for a wide variety of conditions including traumatic or acquired brain injury (such as a stroke), spinal cord injury, Alzheimer’s and other dementias, neuromuscular or neurological conditions (such as Cerebral Palsy, Parkinson’s Disease and Multiple Sclerosis), and neurodevelopmental disorders (such as ADHD, autism and learning disorders).

For more information about how a neuropsych evaluation could be helpful to you, please visit [ONWITHLIFE.ORG/NEUROPSYCH](https://onwithlife.org/neuropsych) or call 515-289-9696 to make a referral.