



Pediatric Neuropsychologist

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Please describe the area of psychology you practice.

I am a board-certified pediatric neuropsychologist working in a pediatric hospital setting. Pediatric neuropsychologists are licensed psychologists with expertise in brain-behavior relationships that specialize in assessment and consultation regarding neurobehavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders in children and adolescents with comorbid neurological and congenital conditions. At my institution, I direct the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program and so I wear many hats: program director – overseeing program operations and development; clinician – conducting neuropsychological evaluations for children with congenital heart disease; supervisor – supervising cardiac neurodevelopmental rotations and didactic teaching for interns and fellows; and 4) researcher – overseeing our research study investigating neuropsychological outcomes in congenital heart disease. While it requires much juggling, I love the diversity of roles that come with my position!

Contact us: earlycareer@apa.org

For further resources, please click [here](#) to check out our ECP website.

What advice would you give to an ECP who wants to pursue a position or additional training opportunities in this area of psychology?

It is much easier to specialize in pediatric neuropsychology if you can plan ahead! Becoming a pediatric neuropsychologist requires obtaining education during your doctoral studies and clinical experience at the practicum and internship levels, in addition to a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology. If you are just starting to explore the field, I recommend starting with New 2 Neuropsychology's website (www.new2neuropsych.org). It is very helpful to find mentors that can help advise you along the way, and many neuropsychology organizations have mentorship programs (a full list can be found on N2N's website). I would also highlight APA's Division 40 Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (www.scn40.org), as they have many helpful resources to support you along the way, including the Association of Neuropsychology Students and Trainees community, Early Career Neuropsychologist Committee community, and the Education Advisory Committee's consultation program.

Were there specific factors that led you to choose this area of psychology? Was there a critical moment that changed your career trajectory?

I became interested in this topic from a young age. I watched my own relatives struggle to navigate the complexities of the behavioral health field, the neuropsychological assessment process, and the special education system for a child with a neurodevelopmental disorder while trying to overcome language barriers, acculturation difficulties, and cultural stigma towards mental illnesses. But it wasn't until college that I discovered the field of clinical neuropsychology during a lecture in my psychology class, and I instantly knew it was what I wanted to pursue as a career. I love this field because I find the intersection of neuroanatomy and psychology fascinating. My job is never boring: some days I work with patients, some days I work on research, some days I teach trainees. But most of all I get to help families who are trying to understand their children and help them get all the supports that they need, and as an Asian American provider, to do so from a lens of reducing barriers and stigma for families from diverse backgrounds.