



Screening & Assessment:

Public School & Private Practice Contrasts

Psyched Express

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HELP!

By Dr. Kathryn Keithly

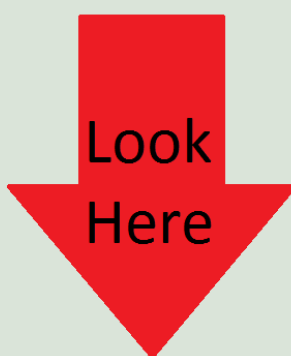
It's vintage, but I love the picture above. I can't tell if it's a boy or girl. He or she looks like my daughter at the end of a school day – worn out. But if you notice, this student is sitting behind a desk. There's an apple and books. This is either an in-class picture or one from home with homework. In either case, this student is distressed and needs help. I guess this kind of look has been displayed in every classroom and home for years.

What kind of distress? AND, what kind of assistance?

Teachers and parents recognize the look. What's behind it and what to do about it can seem elusive. That is the reason for screening and assessment.

Then come more questions-

Who does the screening or assessment? Is the help provided in the public school the same as what is provided privately? In the 2 grids that follow, I have tried to present the options simply. In the first grid, the differences between screening and in-depth assessment are noted. In the second grid, the typical differences are presented.



Dr. Katy will be out of the office March 11-June 15. I will be spending time with our new daughter, Elise. Please email me, I will be taking referrals for summer!!

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Screening vs Assessment

| | Screening | Assessment |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Purpose | To detect researched based and/or developmental indicators of learning/behavior difficulties | To establish presence/absence of a disability or difficulty and recommendations for appropriate interventions |
| Target population | To detect potentially at-risk individuals who may need further in-depth assessment or other intercessions | Individuals who need a detailed analysis of strengths/weaknesses and recommendations |
| Test method | Simple and typically short, individual | Observations, background information, multiple tests and protocols |
| Positive result | Essentially indicates suspicion of difficulty (often used in combination with other risk factors) that warrants further action | Results provide a definite diagnosis and specific interventions. |

Public vs Private Considerations

| | Public school | Private |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Types | Public schools are limited in the types of screening they can provide because of public school Special Education laws. Multi-tiered interventions are typically first required. | Any child or adult can be screened or tested |
| Target population | To detect potentially at-risk individuals who may need further in-depth assessment or other intercessions | Individuals who need further information about a problem can be screened or assessed. |
| Results | <p>Screening results can lead to more in-depth assessment. Some intervention measures can only be utilized if the student is enrolled in the public school- i.e., Response to Intervention, Behavior supports, etc.</p> <p>Assessment results verify or do not verify qualifications needed for services. They do not provide a diagnosis. Just because a student has a problem, does not mean they qualify for services.</p> | <p>Results of screening can be used to pinpoint further interventions.</p> <p>Assessment provides a diagnosis</p> |