

## **SOCIAL COGNITIVE EVALUATIONS AT AARIS THERAPY**

### **What is a social cognitive evaluation?**

A social cognitive evaluation assesses how well a student is able to understand:

- the rules of communication
- the intention of others
- how their own messages carry a communicative intention to others
- how well they understand others thoughts and feelings

Through formal and informal testing tasks, the therapist is able to determine the severity of deficits and work with the family on a tier-stepped intervention plan.

There are 3 different levels of social cognitive evaluations at Aaris which are described below:

**Consult for social group:** A consult is typically 60 minutes in length with a speech-language pathologist or our music therapist.

- A consult can be conducted when:
  - Student already has a medical diagnosis
  - Student may have received prior therapy related to language, communication, or social skills
  - Student has an ETR/ IEP from their school
- Used to determine:
  - If the student is a candidate for group setting
  - If the student should start with individual therapy before entering group
  - Treatment goals
  - If full testing is necessary to determine treatment goals
- What will happen at the consult:
  - Therapist will conduct an informal social interview with the student
  - Student will complete puzzles and answer questions related to videos (informal tasks to determine level of perspective taking)
  - Discuss treatment options and goals

**Abbreviated Evaluation:** This is typically 2 hours in length with a speech-language pathologist and is billed at a speech/language evaluation rate.

- This type of evaluation is conducted when:
  - No previous medical diagnosis
  - No previous therapy records
  - No ETR or IEP from school
- Used to determine:
  - Level and type of deficits

- Type of therapy (group or individual or another type of therapy may be recommended as well)
- Goals for therapy
- What will happen during the evaluation:
  - Student will complete at minimum one formal test related to language and/or social skills or problem solving
  - Student will participate in informal testing measures to determine level of perspective taking
  - Student will complete social interview tasks

**Full Social Cognitive Evaluation:** This is typically 3-4 hours in length with a speech-language pathologist and is billed at a speech/language evaluation rate for the first 2 hours and then billed at an hourly rate for additional time needed to complete testing.

- This type of evaluation is conducted when:
  - No previous information regarding deficits is available
  - School district and parent do not agree on ETR results
  - Parents or districts are looking for more in depth information on the student's social cognitive and language strengths/ weaknesses to help determine best treatment approach and therapy goals
- Used to determine:
  - Level and type of deficits
  - Type of therapy (group or individual or another type of therapy may be recommended as well)
  - Goals for therapy
  - Goals for overall comprehensive treatment approach
- What will happen during the evaluation:
  - Student will complete 2-3 formal tests related to language, social skills and problem solving
  - Student will participate in informal testing measures to determine level of perspective taking
  - Student will complete social interview tasks