

Homeschool Plus Brain Bridges

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Brain Bridges?

Brain Bridges is the name of the educational therapy program administered at Homeschool Plus by certified professional therapists, Brain Bridges provides: Educational Therapy, Speech, Occupational therapy, Adaptive PE, Social Skills, and Counseling, with additional specific programs for math, reading, and comprehension.

What is Educational Therapy?

Educational Therapy is a private one-on-one session between a certified educational therapist and a student who has been identified with specific learning vulnerabilities. Individual sessions are intensive sessions that are tailored to the specific needs of each student. Therapy is designed to be 160 minutes per week for 9-12 months a year

What types of issues does Educational Therapy address?

Therapy addresses issues such as Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, ADHD, ADD, and all manner of learning disorders that impact learning.

Therapy addresses weaknesses in:

Working Memory

Logical Reasoning

Visual/spatial Relations

Visual Motor Coordination

Processing Speed

Self-regulation

Auditory Processing

Executive Function

Academic Issues:

math

reading comprehension

spelling

neatness

writing

getting started

reading

finishing work

What specifically is an Educational Therapist?

Certified Educational Therapists are highly trained individuals who work with struggling learners in a one-on-one or small group setting. Educational therapists are specifically equipped with the ability to identify and assess student learning needs. They create and implement individual educational therapy plans utilizing techniques specific to the learning goals for each student.

Educational therapists have a Bachelor's degree, preferably in education or a related field. They then receive post-graduate training in educational therapy. Brain Bridges Therapists are trained through rigorous, graduate- level courses, are mentored, participate in professional development, and complete a certification process. They are skilled professionals who achieve certification at multiple levels through a variety of licensing organizations including NILD, IDA, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Orton-Gillingham and The Feuerstein Institute.

Why is testing needed?

We require an initial psycho-educational evaluation before a student enters Brain Bridges. Testing provides the evaluators the information required to determine the specific needs of each student and if the student can be served by a therapist. The test data is reviewed and if a student enters into therapy, the student's therapist skillfully tailors sessions to the specific needs of the student. In addition to the initial tests administered to gain a deeper understanding of each student's learning strengths and challenges, annual evaluations are administered to determine effectiveness of the therapy intervention as well as guide future learning goals.

I have some tests does what I have count? What specific tests are required?

Brain Bridges requires only two tests:

1. The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V), is an individually administered intelligence test for children between the ages of 6 and 16. It can be completed without reading or writing. The WISC-V generates an IQ score, which represents a child's general cognitive ability. The WISC V is a predictor of performance in school and a measure of a child's strengths and weaknesses in thinking.

2. Woodcock-Johnson® IV Achievement

This comprehensive academic test allows us to evaluate learning problems, prescribe individualized intervention and measure progress.

The *WJ IV* emphasizes the identification of strengths and weaknesses in student thinking by providing comparisons between the student and other students the same age or in the same grade, as well as providing a way to measure progress over the course of intervention.

What is the cost of testing? Do I have to have testing through Brain Bridges?

What ages can be tested?

A total fee of \$400 is charged for testing. Any student, regardless of schooling status is eligible for testing between the ages of 6-16.

Tests will be accepted from any valid testing center that can conduct the tests required. In general, tests need to be current within 3 years of the date administered.

It this program like Brain Balance or Sylvan or Kumon?

Educational therapy is not tutoring. Our services are totally unlike any of these services.

Does Brain Bridges treat Autism?

Educational therapy can help students with all manner of impairments. While many students with autism spectrum disorder show improvement with educational therapy, the program is not designed specifically for autistic students. Students must be verbal and have a proven ability to learn to benefit from Educational Therapy.

What is the cost of therapy? Is it covered by insurance?

\$365/month

At this time, therapy is rarely covered by insurance, however, there have been families that have been successful in partial coverage.

What are the signs of dyslexia?

The problems displayed by individuals with dyslexia involve difficulties in acquiring and using written language. It is a myth that individuals with dyslexia “read backward,” although spelling can look quite jumbled at times because students have trouble remembering letter symbols for sounds and forming memories for words. Other problems experienced by people with dyslexia include the following:

- Learning to speak
- Learning letters and their sounds
- Organizing written and spoken language
- Memorizing number facts
- Reading quickly enough to comprehend
- Persisting with and comprehending longer reading assignments
- Spelling
- Learning a foreign language
- Correctly doing math operations

Not all students who have difficulties with these skills have dyslexia. Formal testing of reading, language, and writing skills is the only way to confirm a diagnosis of suspected dyslexia.

What is the parent’s role in Educational Therapy?

Parents assist their child’s journey to independent thinking and learning by:

Providing structure and accountability

Supervising homework

Maintaining regular contact with the educational specialist to increase understanding of the learning process

Collaborate in providing an effective program for their child