



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH A LEARNING PROBLEM?

WHAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST?

An educational therapist (ET) is a professional with specialized education and clinical training who is:

- sensitively attuned to the interplay of emotions, cognition, neuro-development, and learning.
- expert at helping clients gain the self-understanding needed to manage their learning challenges.
- knowledgeable about evaluation and assessment techniques.
- skilled at developing assessment-guided individualized interventions.
- proficient case managers who advocate for the client, coordinate services, and facilitate communication among families, schools, and allied professionals.

ETs work with people experiencing learning challenges, such as:

- reading, writing, or math learning disabilities
- language, auditory, and visual processing deficits
- AD/HD, Asperger's, Autism, and other syndromes
- poor motivation
- low academic self-esteem
- performance anxiety
- poor organizational, study, or social skills



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UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

Everyone learns differently; however, it is estimated that millions of children and adults of normal and superior intelligence are experiencing academic difficulty and even failure when they don't respond to traditional teaching methods.

While these individuals often have unique learning styles, they are able to progress and fulfill their potential when appropriate educational programs are put into effect by an educational therapist in a one-on-one setting.

SOME WARNING SIGNS MAY INCLUDE DIFFICULTY WITH:

- associating sounds with letters and/or remembering printed words
- comprehending what is read or heard
- spelling correctly even after much practice
- understanding written or spoken directions
- expressing ideas orally or in writing
- understanding mathematical concepts and/or recalling math facts
- finishing homework or schoolwork on time
- controlling impulses
- organizing time, tasks, and materials

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between an educational therapist (ET) and a tutor?

While a tutor generally focuses on teaching specific subject matter, an ET's focus is broader. ETs work with all the significant people concerned with the student's learning and focus not only on remediation but also on building underlying learning skills and helping clients become more self-aware, self-reliant, efficient learners.

2. What are the benefits of educational therapy?

Through skilled assessment, alternative teaching methods, and case management that coordinates services with home, school or workplace, and other professionals, educational therapy empowers children and adults with learning challenges to learn, achieve, and develop optimally.

3. What kinds of testing do educational therapists do?

Educational therapists conduct formal and informal assessments of academic achievement, perceptual/language processing, and specific cognitive skills. They integrate their test findings with those of allied professionals to determine clients' levels of current academic functioning, learning styles, psychoeducational issues, and specific areas of strengths and weaknesses in order to develop intervention plans appropriate to each client.

4. How long does educational therapy take?

Because educational therapy is a collaborative, individualized intervention and each person's needs and goals are different, there is no prescribed length of time. The client, parents, and ET work together to establish both long-term and short-term goals and evaluate when those goals are met.



WHEN SELECTING AN EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST, ASK ABOUT:

- educational background, training, and experience
- areas of specialization
- short-term objectives and long-range goals for the client
- approach and techniques for intervention
- fee structure and policies
- professional or board certified membership in the Association of Educational Therapists

THE ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL THERAPISTS

The Association of Educational Therapists is a professional association that advances best practices in educational therapy, provides professional support to educational therapists, and is a resource to other professionals from other disciplines.

AET is a reliable source of referrals for educational therapists throughout the United States. For more information or to find an educational therapist, go to www.aetonline.org or call 414-908-4949.