IQ Tests – fact or fiction

IQ is another area that had I no initial thoughts about but having come across a couple of kids who had been evaluated at having very low IQ’s (one was 55 and the other 63) and finding that there was nothing subnormal at all about these children’s intelligence I began to wonder about the value of such tests. Ultimately if you have a child who has literacy and numeracy difficulties I would straight away say they would have trouble taking any test simply because of the nature of their function. In these instances the IQ test is highly likely to only test how well the child takes a test.

I decided to have a look around at IQ tests and see what they are all about. Having watched a TV programme late last year where it was apparent that what was being termed ‘intelligence’ was actual visual perceptual performance and I found myself being quite intrigued about terms used as opposed to the functional performance being identified. Of course the medical profession and psychology don’t really look at function and often it seems to be that they are intellectualising function but in doing this they only ever seem to take a superficial and cursory look at what they are assessing.

The diagnoses that many of these children end up with are symptomatic of superficial examination and the fact that there is nothing beyond medication that is typically recommended that actually improves upon the child’s performance also stems from such cursory examinations.

I found some things on the internet that relate to IQ tests and as I don’t accept that IQ tests actually measure intelligence at all I found this information interesting.

- **Primarily an IQ test measures mathematical and spatial reasoning, logical ability, and language understanding.**
- **IQ test does not measure things like life experience, wisdom, or personal qualities**
- **Some things can negatively impact IQ score. These include malnutrition in children who are tested, and foetal alcohol syndrome, or maternal addiction. Mental retardation or conditions that deteriorate the brain’s capacity to remember like Alzheimer’s disease also causes IQ scores to be lower. IQ may also be impacted by lack of appropriate education, often due to disparity in educational funding. If these disparities are corrected, then IQ scores normally increase.**
- **Simply put, IQ tests are designed to measure your general ability to solve problems and understand concepts.**

From my perspective nothing in any of these statements is about intelligence but it is about visual perceptual task performance. When I looked to see if IQ could be improved upon the general answer is “No.” this again intrigues me because the little boy who had his IQ assessed at has improved his test scores so much that the school guidance counsellor is very perplexed and has made statements such as “It’s unheard of.” But she won’t tell the parents what the new score is until she has tested the boy again. Apparently she doesn’t want to “Get their hopes up.”

From my perspective intelligence is an inherent ability. In some children their initial task performance is so dysfunctional and their emotional status is so compromised that their actual intelligence is obscured. I have been surprised in quite a few instances as to what is actually revealed with the child’s visual perceptual performance is improved upon.
In the majority of children it is possible to see whether or not their intelligence is within the 'normal' range (if we can use that word) or above. I haven’t actually met a child yet who has limited intelligence.

I define intelligence is the inherent capacity to form patterns with information and also form inter-relationships between this information. If you have read the website you will see that I don’t teach these children to think but to enter awareness states where the information is immediately available to them – they don’t have to ‘think it up.’ Intelligence is the speed at which this information can be acted upon, refined, new inter-relationships can be formed and the child can generate independent task performance that shows new, novel and functional task performance. I am also interested in the child’s ability to verbalise something of this although that is not a categorical requirement – especially in the early stages of therapy.

From my perspective IQ tests do not reveal anyone’s intelligence. They may be useful down the track in determine visual perceptual performance in a standardised way but I don’t have any sense of urgency in doing this. I would strongly suggest that all parents rely in their own innate, inherent and intuitive knowledge of their child and stick to your guns around this. You will know if your child lacks in intelligence or not and visual perceptual performance is an issue of intellect at all. Some people I have worked with have been highly intelligent but still have a visual perceptual deficit.

I am probably going to remain highly unconvinced that there is any value in assessing any child for IQ, ADHD, ADD auditory processing disorders, etc, etc, etc as they will not result in any child getting the help they need to overcome their difficulty.

Parents are the experts in their children. The information that parents give me is infinitely more valuable in giving a wider context to the child’s performance than any educational or psychological testing is. I’m going to remain an advocate for parents maintaining the role as the ‘expert’ when it comes to their children. I don’t mind the scepticism that some parents have when they come to see me because as far as I am concerned the work I do will speak for itself. A child will naturally step into literacy and numeracy tasks and show improvement in function in all other areas of their life if they get the appropriate therapy. And they will do this naturally and of their own volition – without anyone having to push them.