

## INTELLIGENCE

### Reasons for Testing Intelligence

#### **Purpose of Intelligence Testing**

- Specific goal – not just to get an IQ score.
- Predicting real-world behaviours/performance.
- Intelligence testing to help answer **referral question**. E.g.:
  - Is intelligence a barrier to learning?
  - Is intelligence a factor in poor academic achievement? (if not, what other factors are?)
  - Why is the child struggling?
  - Profile of strengths and weaknesses – areas that require any extra assistance needed?
  - Predict academic or job success.
  - Should they be placed into accelerated learning?
  - Brain damage?
  - Funding decisions (IQ 75 or under = extra funding).
- Starting point for **further (psychological) assessment**.
  - E.g., if IQ is normal then we need to look at other factors that might be impacting their academic performance (emotional, etc.).
- Can be used to **rule intelligence in/out** as a potential reason why a child is having academic difficulties (in general or in a particular subject).

#### **IQ Testing Reasons Against and For**

##### **- Against:**

- IQ tests seen as biased
- Can label children by their scores.
- Teacher expectancy manifest as:
  - Self-fulfilling properties.
  - Teacher encourages brighter students.
  - Brighter students receive more social reinforcement and enrichment.
  - Not always negative.
- Cost.
- Stressful for children.
- Takes a relatively long time.

##### **- For:**

- Can answer referral questions.
- Can be the starting point for further (psychological) assessment.
- May reveal hidden potential & prevent mistakes in placement.
- Also may prevent stereo-type based educational decisions & employment opportunities.

#### **Factors that Influence Intelligence Test Scores**

- Anxiety.
- Fatigue.
- Hunger.
- Testing environment.
- Rapport.
- Motivation.