

LD Test Selection Committee

Minutes of Meeting of 8/28/09 (corrected 9/8/09)

Present: Janet Gibbs, Phil Fast, Vickey Carlson, Tony Loveless, Mary Griffin, Pam Plant, Dick Baer

Cross Battery Assessment

Dick forgot to bring the books that had been ordered. He will mail a copy to Phil and bring them for to the next meeting for others.

Committee Schedule

The committee established the following meeting schedule:

- September 24
- October 23
- November 19
- December 17
- January 20
- February 22
- March 19
- April 22
- May 19
- June 9.

2009 LDA Conference

Janet and Dick both had presentations accepted. Committee members were encouraged to attend if they can.

New Committee Members

Tom Roush request to rejoin the committee was rejected. There are enough psychologists on the committee. Priorities are for teachers, administrators, SLPs, and charter school representatives.

Test of Auditory Processing Skills: Third Edition (TAPS-3)

Dick reported that neither the publisher nor Richard Keene responded to his last request to check his calculations for reliabilities for the TAPS-3. He will try one more time. I there is no response, the test will be added to the Estimator program using the reliabilities he calculated.

Aptitude Test Floor Rule

The committee continued its discussion of aptitude test floor rules begun at the June meeting. It adopted the following rule:

At age level, the upper end of the 90 percent confidence interval must be equal to or less than the 70, i.e. it must be possible to score in the intellectually disabled range.

Test of Reading Comprehension: Fourth Edition (TORC-4)

Phil reviewed the TORC-4. The test was normed on 1942 children ages 7:0 to 17:11 from 14 states. One hundred plus subjects were included at each age level. The sample reflected the population based on projections for 2005. The test includes five subtests which combined yields a Reading Comprehension Index. Alpha coefficients for the Reading Comprehension Index ranged from .97 to .98. Validity was deemed adequate. For example, the TORC-4 correlates .86 with the WISC-IV.

Mary moved and Tony seconded that the TORC-4 Reading Comprehension Index be approved as a measure of reading comprehension for ages 7:0 to 17:11. The motion passed.

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)

Mary continued her reviewed the NNAT begun at the May meeting. It was tabled pending further discussion of floor rules for aptitude tests.

Mary moved and Vickey seconded that the individually administered NNAT Standard Score be approved as a measure of aptitude for ages 6:4 to 16:11. The motion passed.

Primary Test of Nonverbal Intelligence (PTONI)

Mary reviewed the PTONI. The test was standardized on 1010 subjects ages 3:0 to 9:11 from 170 geographically diverse communities. The sample was reflective of the U.S. population as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007. There were 100 plus subjects included at each age level. However, this was slightly less than the 100 per six month interval recommended by Reynolds for ages below 6 years. Alpha coefficients for the Nonverbal Index ranged from .90 to .95. Two positive features of the PTONI are (1) subjects are given five practice exercises which if they don't pass the test is not given and (2) alternative language instructions are provided.

Mary moved and Vickey seconded that the Nonverbal Index be approved as a measure of aptitude for ages 4:0 to 9:11. The motion passed.

Test of Written Language: Fourth Edition (TOWL-4)

Mary reviewed the TOWL-4. The test is essentially a re-standardization of the TOWL-3, however some of the stimulus pictures were changed. It was normed on 2205 persons ages 9:0 to 17:11 in 17 states. The sample reflected the 2005 population as described by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Two hundred plus subjects were included at each age level. Alpha coefficients for Contrived Writing and Overall Writing Composite scores were deemed adequate ranging from .95 to .97. Alpha coefficients for the Spontaneous Writing Composite score were low ranging from .81 to .87.

Mary moved and Fulvia seconded that the TOWL-4 Contrived Writing and Overall Writing Composite scores be approved as measures of written language for ages 9:0 to 17:11. The motion passed.

Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales for Early Childhood - Abbreviated Battery (SB-5 Abbreviated) The SB-5 Abbreviated is described by the authors as a screening test.

Tony moved and Phil seconded that the SB-5 Abbreviated standard score be approved as a measure of aptitude for ages 2:0 to 6:11. The motion failed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2009.