DIGIT SPAN

Description of the Instrument

- Children are told they are going to play a number game. The children are told that they will hear some numbers and they will need first repeat the numbers to the examiner and then later they are asked to repeat the numbers backwards (e. g., If I say '1, 3,' you say '3,1'). Digit span is a measure of working memory. To complete the task children need to hold and manipulate (reverse) a series of numbers in their minds. The memory demands increase by requiring children to repeat larger sets of numbers.

Base Reference/Primary Citation:

Wechsler, D. (2003). *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children—4th Edition (WISC-IV).* San Antonio, TX: Harcourt Assessment.

Digit Span Task Script

Digit Span script and list of test items are not included in this manual since these were taken from the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-4th Edition (WISC-IV). Please reference the WISC-IV Digit Span forward and backward subtest to obtain a copy of the administration script and items for this task.

Digit Span Record Form

Give both trials of each item, even if trial 1 is answered correctly. Only stop after child answers both trials in one row incorrectly. Actual test item patterns removed. See WISC-IV.

Practice 1:

	Practice 1	**Response**	**Score**
Trial 1			
Trial 2			

Practice 2:

	Practice 2	**Response**	**Score**
Trial 1			

Forward Test Items:

Trial 1	**Response**	**Score**	**Trial 2**	**Response**	**Score**
2 digit					
9 digits					

Backward:

Practice 1:

	Practice 1	**Response**	**Score**
Trial 1			
Trial 2			

Practice 2:

	Practice 2	**Response**	**Score**
Trial 1			
Trial 2			

Test Items:

Give both trials of each item, even if trial 1 is answered correctly. Only stop after child answers both trials incorrectly.

Trial 1	**Response**	**Score**	**Trial 2**	**Response**	**Score**
2 digits					
8 digits					

Digit Span Scoring

Each item is coded as follows:

- For each test item (forward and backward), the child gets 1 point for each number sequence recalled correctly. For example if a child was given the sequence 587 to recall backwards and said 875, he/she would get a score of 0 for that item. If he/she said 785, a score of 1 for that item would be given.

Final Score:

- The longest span correctly recalled across the test items (9 possible for forward and 8 possible for backward). Look for the highest test item with at least one trial that contains a score of "1" to locate the longest span recalled correctly. Obtain a final score for the forward and backward series separately.