WOODCOCK-JOHNSON III TESTS OF ACHIEVEMENT (WJ-III)

WJ-III standard scores are reported, which are normed to a representative sample of American youth. Standard scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. A score of 100, therefore, is considered average. Higher scores on the measures reflect better academic performance. An increase in standard scores from fall to spring indicates learning at a faster rate than the children had previously demonstrated.

The same subtests were used during each round of assessments.


WJ-III Literacy Measures

Letter Word Identification

- Letter Word Identification assesses children's letter and word identification ability. Items include identifying and pronouncing presented letters and pronouncing presented words.

- Sample Script: *This is the letter “P.” Find the “P” down here.*

Spelling

- Spelling measures the ability to write orally presented letters and words correctly beginning with tracing simple shapes.

- Sample Script: *Watch Me. [Trace “Z” on left. Hand pencil to child, point to “Z” on right] Now you make one just like I did. Stay on the line.*

WJ-III Language Measures

Academic Knowledge

- Academic Knowledge is given in three subtests measuring factual knowledge of science, social studies, and humanities.

- Sample Script: *Look at the pictures, put your finger on the one that flies.*
Oral Comprehension

- Oral Comprehension assesses children’s ability to understand a short passage by providing a missing word based on the syntactic and semantic cues of the sentence.

- Sample Script: Water looks blue and grass looks ___________ (pause expectantly).

Picture Vocabulary

- Picture Vocabulary assesses children’s receptive and expressive language and word knowledge at the single word level. After the initial items, children must say the name of the picture.

- Sample Script of initial item: Put your finger on the flower.

WJ-III Mathematics Measures

Applied Problems

- Applied Problems assesses children’s ability to solve mathematics problems. The items in the scale measure children’s ability to identify information necessary to solve problems and to determine an appropriate strategy to solve the problem.

- Sample Script: How many dogs are there in this picture?

Quantitative Concepts

- Quantitative Concepts is a measure given in two parts. The first part assesses children’s knowledge of mathematical concepts, including vocabulary, numbers, shapes, and symbols. The second part measures sequencing of numbers, with difficulty increasing with each problem.

- Sample Script A: Point to the largest star. Now point to the smallest star.

- Sample Script B: Look at these numbers and tell me the number that belongs in the blank space.

WJ-III Reading Measures (1st grade only)

Passage Comprehension

- Passage Comprehension assesses children’s reading comprehension skills through their ability to match conceptually similar pictures and representations and complete sentences and paragraphs with appropriate words that maintain the semantic properties of the stimulus.
Sample Script: Put your finger on the one that tells about the big picture.