AGS Early Screening Profiles (Assignment 2)

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EEC 4207

Professor XXXX

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“Early Screening Profiles is an indispensable tool that uses multiple domains, settings, and sources to measure cognitive, language, motor, self-help, and social development. The result is an ecologically valid assessment that provides a wealth of practical information to help you make accurate screening decisions, as well as plan intervention strategies for children and their families” (Sparrow, 2012). The AGS Early Screening Profiles test, published by American Guidance Service, is a tool used to measure the five major areas of development in children. The AGS is a norm-referenced test through which the child’s performance is compared to that of the other children assessed. They are compared in various areas, or profiles: cognitive, language, motor, self-help, and social development. The test also includes a survey of the child’s home life, articulation, health history, and test behavior. This particular test screens for possible developmental problems or giftedness. The AGS is designed for children between the ages of 2 and 6 years and 11 months and costs $373. Teachers can administer all parts of the test, including the profiles and surveys, or they can choose only the parts they think they need. “The major components of the battery are compatible with more inclusive instruments that can be used for follow-up assessment, including the Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children, the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, and many other measurements” (Harrison, 1990, p. 7).

The materials included in the test package are as follows: the test manual; an easel containing the Cognitive/Language Profile and Articulation Survey; directions for administration of the Motor Profile; a test record for recording performance on the Cognitive/Language and Motor Profiles, the Articulation Survey, and the Behavior Survey; the Self-Help Questionnaire; the Home/Health Questionnaire; beads; strings; a tape measure for administering the Motor Profile; and the score summary for reporting scores on all components administered and for combining scores to find the total screening scores. Testing objects you will need to have that are not included in the testing package are black number 2 pencils for all components, red pencils for the Motor Profile, masking tape at least ¾-inch wide, and a stopwatch for the Motor Profile. You can also choose to use a clipboard for holding the test record while administering the Gross Motor Subtest.

The teacher administers the Cognitive/Language and Motor Profiles and the Articulation Survey to the child. The parent and/or teacher complete the Self-Help/Social Profile. The parent alone completes the Home Survey and Health History Survey, and the examiner/teacher documents the child’s behavior. The child usually spends 30 minutes on each of the three profiles. The four surveys require an extra 15 to 20 minutes each. Teachers who choose to administer the AGS are not always required to have specific training, experience, or college coursework. Examiners need basic qualifications such as the ability to read directions and convey verbal instructions to children, experience interacting with young children, a kind and patient manner, accuracy in following directions and in writing responses to record booklets, and the ability to avoid careless mistakes.

Most examiners start by administering the Cognitive/Language Profile. This profile contains four subtests: verbal concepts, visual discrimination, logical…

References

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