

Assessment Instruments

The information below comes directly from the respective publishers unless noted otherwise.

For more information from the School Social Work Practice Guide visit:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/sswguide.html>

Behavior Assessment System for Children, 2nd Edition (BASC-2)

Published by American Guidance Service (AGS) Publishing

This instrument is a comprehensive set of rating scales and forms, including the Teacher Rating Scales (TRS), the Parent Rating Scales (PRS), the Self-Report of Personality (SRP), the Student Observation System (SOS), and the Structured Developmental History (SDH). Together, they are designed to help understand the behaviors and emotions of children and adolescents.

This instrument may be purchased by:

- members of the American Psychological Association,
- members of the National Association of School Psychologists (non-student members only),
- members of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (for speech, language, and auditory skills tests only),
- approved or accredited schools or colleges and government agencies,
- teachers with signed approval of an administrator (Level A and B tests only),
- graduate students with signed approval, and
- persons who are qualified at Level B or C.

Users must be qualified at Level C for the TRS, PRS, and SRP. For the SOS and SDH, users must be qualified at Level B.

According to the manual, users are expected to have completed a recognized graduate training program in psychology; to have received formal academic training in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavior-rating scales and personality scales; and to have received supervised experience with such instruments. Most clinical, school, pediatric, counseling, neuro-, and applied developmental psychologists will have received such training.

It is not possible to determine solely by title, licensure, or certification who is qualified to use the BASC-2. A variety of other professionally trained or certified staff, e.g., psychometrists, educational diagnosticians, clinical social workers, psychiatrists, and pediatricians, might have received the necessary formal academic training and supervised experience to use instruments like the BASC-2.

Childhood Behavior Checklist (CBCL)

Published by Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA)

The Childhood Behavior Checklist obtains reports from parents, other close relatives, and/or guardians regarding children's competencies and behavioral and emotional problems. Parents provide information covering their child's activities, social relations, and school performance. The CBCL has items that describe specific behavioral and emotional problems, plus open-ended items for reporting additional problems. Parents rate their child for how true each item is now or within the past six months using the following scale: 0 = not true (as far as you know); 1 = somewhat or sometimes true; 2 = very true or often true.

Eligibility to purchase ASEBA materials is determined on the basis of professional degree, licensing, relevant experience, and acceptance of the conditions indicated. Users of the CBCL are expected to have completed graduate training in standardized assessment of at least a Master's degree, plus thorough knowledge of the relevant manuals and documentation.

Parent, teacher, caregiver, and self-report forms are self-explanatory. No special qualifications are needed for administering these forms, beyond the tact and sensitivity that are necessary in all dealings with parents, teachers, caregivers, youths, and others. These forms require no more than fifth grade reading skills.

The proper clinical and research use and interpretation of the materials require knowledge of the theory and methodology of standardized assessment, as well as supervised training in working with the relevant kinds of clients. The training required may differ according to the ways in which the data are to be used.

Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (VABS)

Published by American Guidance Service (AGS) Publishing

The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales measure personal and social skills used for everyday living. This assessment provides critical data for the diagnosis or evaluation of a wide range of disabilities, including mental retardation, developmental delays, functional skills impairment, and speech/language impairment. This instrument has also been proven to be an accurate resource for predicting autism and Asperger syndrome, among other differential diagnoses. The VABS covers a wide range of adaptive behaviors (communication, daily living skills, socialization, and motor skills).

This instrument may be purchased by:

- members of the American Psychological Association,
- members of the National Association of School Psychologists (non-student members only),
- members of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (for speech, language, and auditory skills tests only),
- approved or accredited schools or colleges and government agencies,
- teachers with signed approval of an administrator (Level A and B tests only),
- graduate students with signed approval, and
- persons who are qualified at Level C.

The VABS Manual states that the Survey and Expanded forms must be administered by a psychologist, social worker, or other professional with a graduate degree and training in interview techniques. Level C qualification is expected.

The VABS also offers a Classroom form for children age 3 through 12. This form is a questionnaire booklet that is completed directly by a teacher.

Adaptive Behavior Assessment System (ABAS)

Published by the Psychological Corporation, a Harcourt Assessment Company

The Adaptive Behavior Assessment System is a complete assessment of adaptive behavior. The instrument 1) determines how the individual is responding to daily demands, 2) helps develop treatment and training goals and determine eligibility for services and Social Security benefits, and 3) assesses individuals with mental retardation, learning difficulties, ADD/ADHD, or other impairments. In addition, the ABAS assesses the capability of adults to live independently.

The ABAS may be used by individuals with B-level qualifications, i.e., people with a master's degree in psychology, education, or a related field with relevant training in assessment. This instrument may be purchased by individuals with a master's degree in psychology, education, or a related field with relevant training in assessment, or who are certified by a professional organization recognized by Harcourt Assessment to require training and experience in a relevant area of assessment. These professional organizations include as part of their code of ethics, the requirement that practitioners engage in aspects of their professions that are within the scope of their competence. Therefore, practitioners who do not have a master's degree but who have completed specialized training or have developed expertise in a specific area, e.g., neurodevelopmental treatment or infant development, may order B-level products to assess skills in the practitioner's area of expertise.

Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R)

Published by Riverside Publishing/Houghton Mifflin

The Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised is a comprehensive, norm-referenced assessment of adaptive and maladaptive behavior. It may be administered in a structured interview or by a checklist procedure. All items appear in each response booklet to facilitate either administration procedure. The SIB-R is a revision of the Scales of Independent Behavior, published in 1984, and includes a number of improvements and additions.

Test use should be consistent with sound professional practice. Tests and their related materials are to be released only to persons with the knowledge and skills needed for effective test administration and test interpretation. The following accredited educational institutions and qualified private agencies and individuals may obtain test materials:

- accredited schools and colleges,
- teachers authorized by an administrator,
- accredited hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other medical facilities,
- graduate and undergraduate students and researchers (for research purposes), and

- university libraries agreeing to the following conditions: (1) materials will be kept in locked files, and (2) materials will only be released to students or personnel who need them to meet course or research requirements upon approval of the appropriate faculty member.

A new SIB-R checklist booklet can be completed by a teacher, psychologist, or social worker directly, or with the help of special interview materials that involve parents. The SIB-R was designed to be an integral part of interdisciplinary planning. Its contents provide an excellent outline for team discussion, often eliciting information and opinions that parents might not otherwise bring up on their own.