

Verizon Life Span Literacy Matrix: Children's Early Literacy Measures

Test — Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS)

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Purpose — The OWLS is designed to assess the receptive and expressive language of children and young adults and can be used to assess learning disabilities. The Oral Language scale is designed to measure the understanding of spoken language. The Oral Expression scale is designed to measure the understanding *and* use of spoken language. The Written Expression Scale is designed to measure the ability to communicate meaningfully using written linguistic forms.

Population — The OWLS is used with the following age groups:
Ages 3.0 through 21.11 (Oral Language Scales)
Ages 5.0 through 21.11 years (Written Expression Scales)

Time — Administration time for the OWLS is 15-20 minutes.

Description

The OWLS is an individually administered assessment of receptive and expressive language for children and young adults. It consists of three conformed scales — Listening Comprehension (LC), Oral Expression (OE) and Written Expression (WE). While the scales were developed and normed as part of the same assessment, the oral language components (Listening Comprehension and Oral Expression) are packaged together and the Written Expression Scale is packaged separately.

Benefits

Oral Language scale test results may be used to determine broad levels of language skills as well as specific performance in the areas of listening and speaking. The Written Expression Scale provides a broad sample of writing performance. OWLS provides a record of growth in language skills across a broad time span.

Validity/Reliability

The assessment was normed on a nationwide sample of 1,795 children in 1991. Test-retest reliability measures were found to be in the .80 range; criterion validity was assessed using the Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language (revised), The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (revised), and the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (revised).

Cost

OWLS: LC/OE and WE Complete Test Kit: \$369.00

OWLS: LC/OE Kit: \$249.00

OWLS: WE Kit: \$149.00

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Source

This document is a summary of information found on the publisher's Web site.

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