Assessment Tools for Expressive Communication / Social Interaction Skills for Students with ASD

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Assessment: Important to Consider...

- Multi-disciplinary: information from multiple sources.
- Observations of student in various contexts and settings.
- Informal assessment in combination with standardized assessments should be used to assess pragmatic / social language skills.
- No single standardized test score should determine whether or not a child has a pragmatic / social language disorder.
- “False negatives”: Declarative knowledge versus procedural knowledge (i.e., “talking the talk” versus “walking the walk”)

Standardized Tests to Assess Technical Knowledge and Processing of Language at the Word and Sentence Level

- To assess vocabulary, syntax, grammar, etc.), use of receptive and expressive standardized instruments such as the TOLD-3; CELF-4; ROWPVT; EOWPVT (and many others) can be administered, if warranted.

Pre / non-verbal Child with ASD Assessment Tools

- “Communication Assessment Record” in Assessing and Developing Communication and Thinking Skills in People with Autism and Communication Difficulties, by Kate Silver, 2005.
- Informal assessment
  - Understand concept of cause and effect?
  - Communicative intent - desire to communicate with another person (anticipating an outcome to their communicative behavior)? Prizant’s “communication temptations”
  - Language form - a means of communication.
  - Language functions - something to communicate about.

- The Social Play Record: A Toolkit for Assessing and Developing Social Play from Infancy to Adolescence, by Chris White, 2006. Identifies social play stages, and which processes or skills to work towards. Provides an ongoing curriculum for social play.

- **Children’s Communication Checklist - 2**: PsychCorp: Harcourt Assessment
  - Ages 4:0 - 16:11
  - Purpose: to identify children with a pragmatic language impairment; to assist in identifying children who may require further assessment for ASD.

- **Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL)**: Pearson Publishing
  - Ages 3:0 - 21:11
  - Pragmatic Judgement subtest
  - Supralinguistic subtest (abstract lang.)

- **Test of Problem Solving**: LinguiSystems
  - TOPS 3: Ages 6:0 - 11:11
  - TOPS 2 Adolescent: ages 12:0 - 17:11

- **Test of Language Competence**: Harcourt Assessment
  - Ages 5:0 - 18:11
  - Assesses the abstract elements of language (e.g., inferences, ambiguous sentences, figurative language, etc.)

- **Test of Pragmatic Language-2**: LinguiSystems (*Beware of false negatives!*)
  - Ages 6:0 - 18:0
  - Verbal Child with ASD: Standardized Assessment Tools

- **Social Language Development Test**: LinguiSystems
  - Ages 6.0 - 11.11 / 12.0 – 17.11
  - Examines social language skills students need to take another’s perspective, predict consequences, and use social grace to get along with peers.
  - 4 subtests elementary / 5 subtests - Adolescents
  - Making inferences
  - Interpersonal negotiations / Interpreting social language
  - Multiple interpretations / Problem solving
  - Support peers / Social interaction
  - Adolescents: Interpreting ironic statements
  - Verbal Child with ASD: Standardized Assessment Tools

  - Ages 6.0 - 12.11
  - Criterion-referenced and norm-referenced assessment tool (z scores and percentile ranks).
  - Additional teacher / parent Questionnaire screening tool.
  - Identifies social and emotional language needs of students with ASD, LD, or ADD

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Verbal Child with ASD: Criterion Assessments

- **CELF Preschool 2 - Descriptive Pragmatics Profile**, PsychCorp: Harcourt Assessment
  - Ages 3-6 (Criterion score)
- **CELF 4 - Pragmatic Profile**
  - Ages 5-21 (Criterion score)

Verbal Child with ASD: Informal Social Interaction / Social Language Assessment Tasks and Rating Scales (My favorites)

  - 1:1 Assessment of higher level social thinking skills
  - Evaluator tools for recording and analyzing findings per section
  - Sample social assessment reports / template
  - IEP goals / objectives / benchmarks
  - Ages 8 and above
  - Parent / teacher / child interview forms
  - Autism Social Skills Profile Rating Scale (ages 6 - 17)
  - Setting goals and objectives (samples)
  - Selecting intervention strategies
  - Implementing the intervention strategies: individual / group
  - Sample lesson plans
  - Evaluating and monitoring progress
  - Social Skills Menu
  - Skills Rating Form
  - Strategies for Teaching Social Skills
  - Where to Provide Skills Training
  - Skill Lesson and Activities
- **Super Skills**, by Judith Coucouvanis, 2005 (elementary-aged students).
  - Profile of Social Difficulty Rating Scale
  - Selecting target behaviors
  - Super Skills Grouping Profile of Social Difficulty
  - Lesson Plans (based on info. From rating scale)
- **Indices of Friendship Observation Schedule**, by Tony Attwood:
  - Rating scale for friendship skills
- **The Social Play Record: A Toolkit for Assessing and Developing Social Play from Infancy to Adolescence**, by Chris White, 2006:
  - Identifies social play stages, and which processes or skills to work towards.
  - Provides an ongoing curriculum for social play.

Verbal Child with ASD: **Additional Informal Assessment Tasks**
- First Order False Belief Tasks (NTD age 4)
- Sally-Anne Task (Change of location task)
- Unexpected Contents Task
- Emotional Understanding:
  - Select 10 photos or line drawings of various emotions - take data
  - Student describes a time when they felt a particular emotion and when another person felt a particular emotion (compare the 2 for perspective-taking)
- Emotional vocabulary: Student gives synonyms for various emotions or rates intensity of emotion for emotion “families”
- Conversational Analysis Assessment from Jill Kuzma @ www.jillkuzma.wordpress.com
  - Balance of turn-taking (should be fairly equal)
  - Balance of turn-taking when topic is initiated by target student or others
  - Topic maintenance when topic is initiated by target student or others
  - Balance of comments versus questions (should be fairly equal)
  - Percentage of conversation breakdowns
  - Recognize conversation breakdowns
  - Repair conversation breakdowns