Differential Ability Scales (DAS-II)

by James Lani

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The Differential Ability Scales (DAS-II) were developed as an evaluation tool for the cognitive ability and achievement of children. Psychologists depend on the DAS-II to provide insight into the manner in which a child processes information, giving solutions to fix learning problems.

For testing, the participants from the ages of 2-6 or 11-1 years must respond to 63 multiple-choice items. There are four different forms for the test: Preschool, School-Age, Cognitive Battery, School Achievement. Approximately 45-60 minutes is required for completion.

Author

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Reliability and Validity

Reliability coefficient for the DAS are all reported very high – average 0.90 to 0.94 for Preschool Level and 0.95 for School Age Level. A score of 0.79 to 0.94 is associated with the test-reliability, also very high. The DAS scale has been correlated with the McCarthy Scales of Children's Ability (MSCA) showing the highest ratings with the Verbal, Perceptual-Performance, or Qualitative scales in the DAS. In addition, the WISC-R Full Scale IQ correlated highly with all the school age level subtests, specifically with the Verbal ability cluster. The SB-IV also showed strong correlation for ages of 9 to 10.

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References

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Dissertations and Journals

McIntosh, D.E. & Gridley, B. E.(1993). Differential Ability Scales: Profiles of Learning-Disabled Subtypes. *Psychology in the Schools, 30 (1),* 11-24.

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