

For children ages 2:6-3:6, which instrument should be used for this age range? Bayley-III or WPPSI-III?

Frequently Asked Question:

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Answer:

Which test to use depends on your clinical judgment and the purpose of testing. Practitioners can use either or both instruments for children ages 30-42 months (2 years 6 months and 3 years 6 months). Though both measures provide an estimate of a child's cognitive functioning, the instruments are designed for different purposes. The Bayley-III provides information about whether a child's developmental trajectory in the cognitive domain is proceeding as expected, relative to same-age peers. It also provides this type of information for language, motor, social-emotional, and adaptive behavior domains.

The WPPSI-III is specifically designed to measure a child's overall cognitive ability, as well as his or her cognitive ability in more specific domains (e.g., verbal, perceptual, processing speed). The Bayley-III should be used to evaluate cognitive ability in low-functioning children in this age range because it provides an extended floor. The WPPSI-III should be used to evaluate cognitive ability in high-functioning children in this age range, because it provides an extended ceiling. If results of the Bayley-III suggest delays in the cognitive domain, the WPPSI-III may provide additional information on the specific areas of cognitive ability that are problematic for the child. If an ability score (e.g., FSIQ) is required, the WPPSI-III should be used.

Article ID: 2169

Last updated: 23 Nov, 2008

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