

ABCD-ReproNim: An ABCD Course on Reproducible Data Analyses

ABCD: Neurocognitive Assessments

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Learning Objectives of this Lecture



- Identify goals of the ABCD Neurocognition Battery
- Summarize types of measures in ABCD Neurocognition Battery
- Summary of methodological considerations in administering the measures

Description and Rationale of Neurocognitive Battery

ABCD-ReproNim

- **Goals:**
 - Examine typical developmental changes
 - Capture altered trajectories due to substance use, new mental health symptoms, and other emergent factors
 - Mainly repeatable tasks (robust to retesting or have alternate forms)
 - A few less traditional assessments (e.g., hot cognition), including some with “aha” moments (administer only once)
- **Tasks that:**
 1. facilitate comparisons with other large studies (e.g., NIH Toolbox)
 2. maximize sensitivity to development and emergent factors across 10 years of assessment, starting at ages 9-10
 3. computerized (maximize efficiency for a large multi-site study)
 4. minimize participant burden

Measures in ABCD Neurocognition Battery



General
Ability/
Intelligence

Learning/
Memory

Executive
functioning /
Cognitive
Control

Reward

		BL	1yr fu	2yr fu	3yr fu	
Task:	Platform:	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	Purpose:
Picture Vocabulary	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Receptive vocabulary, general intellect
Oral Reading Recognition	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Reading decoding skill, general intellect
Matrix Reasoning	Q-Interactive	x				Visual processing and abstract, spatial perception
Little Man Task	Millisecond	x		x		Visuospatial functioning, mental rotation
Stanford Mental Arithmetic Response Time Eval	Millisecond				x	Math achievement and fluency
List Sorting Working Memory	NIH Toolbox	x				Working memory
Picture Sequence Memory	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Episodic memory
Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test	Q-Interactive	x		x		Verbal learning and memory
Dimensional Change Card Sort	NIH Toolbox	x				Cognitive flexibility and attention
Pattern Comparison Processing Speed	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Speed of processing
Flanker Inhibitory Control and Attention	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Attention and inhibitory control
Emotional Stroop	Millisecond		x		x	Inhibition of prepotent responses, affective regulation
Game of Dice Task	Millisecond			x		Aversion/attraction to risky decisions
Stop Signal fMRI task	E-Prime	x		x		Impulsivity and impulse control
Emotional N-back fMRI task	E-Prime	x		x		Working memory, emotion reactivity and regulation
Social Influence Task	Millisecond			x		Social influence and risk perception
Cash Choice	REDCap	x				Discounting of proximal and distal rewards
Delay Discounting	Millisecond		x		x	Discounting of proximal and distal rewards
Monetary Incentive Delay fMRI task	E-Prime	x		x		Reward processing and motivation

Measures in ABCD Neurocognition Battery



- 3 broad components, shown using a PCA model, for 11 tasks used at Baseline
 - General Ability / Intelligence
 - Picture Vocabulary
 - Oral Reading Recognition
 - Little Man Task
 - Executive Function / Cognitive control
 - Flanker
 - Dimensional Change Card Sort
 - Pattern Comparison Processing Speed
 - Learning/Memory
 - List Sorting Working Memory
 - Picture Sequence Memory
 - Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test

Variations in Assessments Across Time Points



- Covers multiple domains, adds measures of “hot” cognition, and minimizes participant burden
- Some tasks key for scan years

		BL	1yr fu	2yr fu	3yr fu	
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Picture Vocabulary	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Receptive vocabulary, general intellect
Oral Reading Recognition	NIH Toolbox	x		x		Reading decoding skill, general intellect
Matrix Reasoning	Q-Interactive	x				Visual processing and abstract, spatial perception
Little Man Task	Millisecond	x		x		Visuospatial functioning, mental rotation
List Sorting Working Memory	NIH Toolbox	x				Working memory
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Delay Discounting	Millisecond		x		x	Discounting of proximal and distal rewards
Emotional Stroop	Millisecond		x		x	Inhibition of prepotent responses, affective regulation
Game of Dice Task	Millisecond			x		Aversion/attraction to risky decisions
Social Influence Task	Millisecond			x		Social influence and risk perception
Stanford Mental Arithmetic Response Time Eval	Millisecond				x	Math achievement and fluency

NIH Toolbox: Cognition Domain

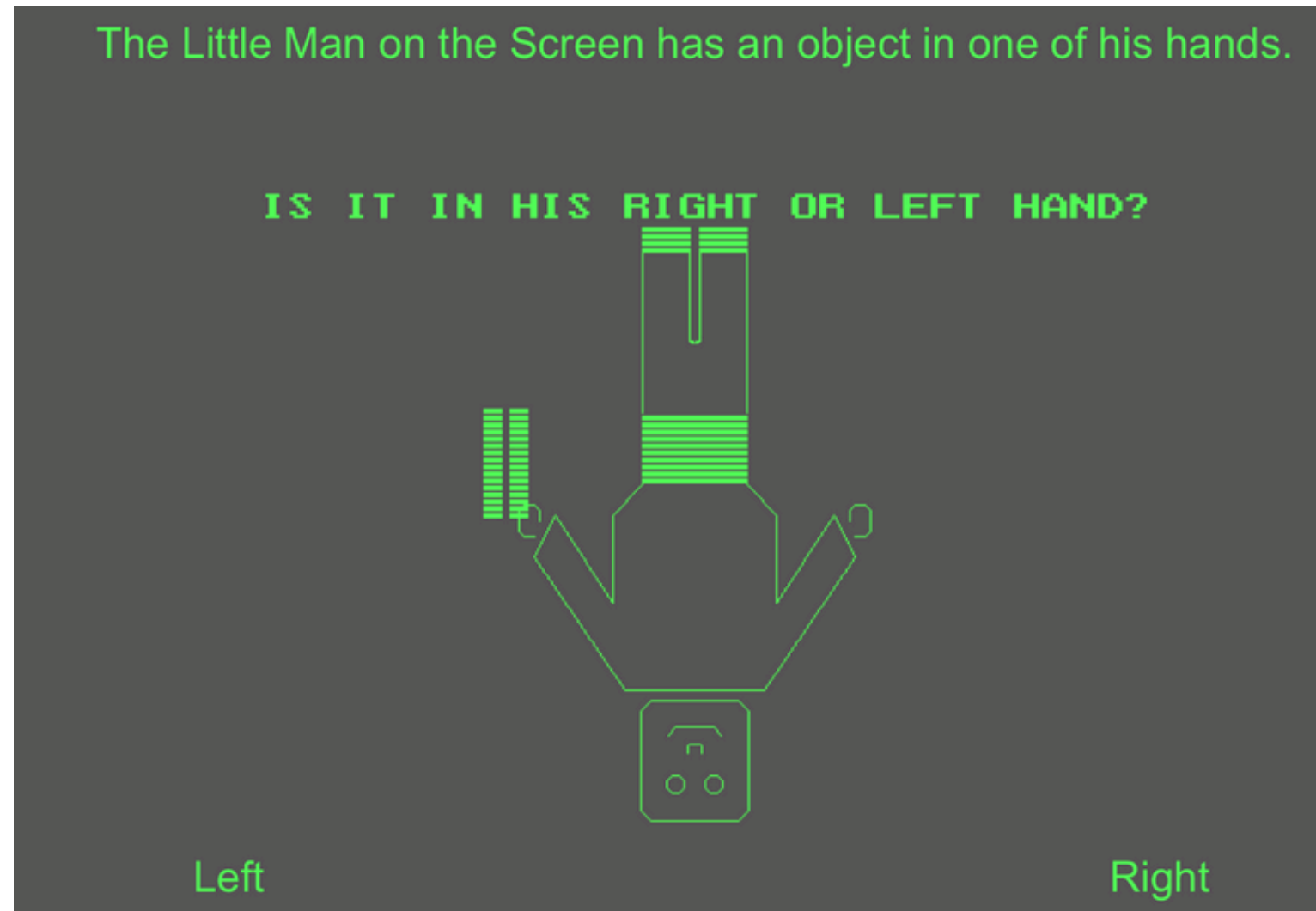


- Comprehensive set of neurobehavioral tests
- Cognition Battery measures: Language, Attention, Episodic Memory, Working Memory, Executive Function, and Processing Speed
- Originally developed for web, adapted for iPad app-based administration
- Developed to facilitate longitudinal measurement from age 3 through the lifespan
- 7 tasks, ~35 minutes to administer
- Raw, age-standardized, and demographics-corrected T-scores

- Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Task
 - Alternate word lists for each repeated time point
 - 16 minutes to administer, with a 30-minute delay period
 - Performance and errors on learning and recall trials
- WISC-V Matrix Reasoning
 - 8 minutes
 - Raw and standardized scores

Little Man Task

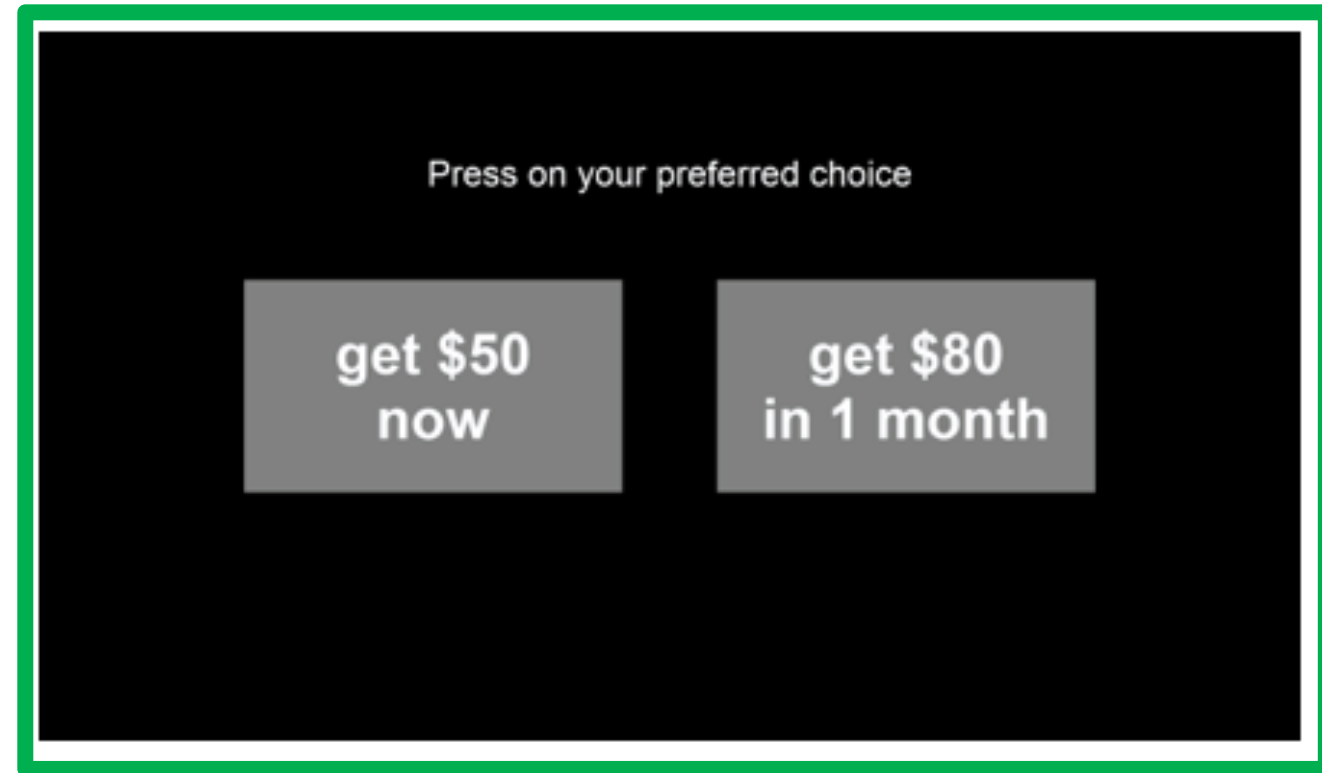
- Mental rotation task
 - ~6 minutes
 - Engaging
 - Developed for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
- Measures accuracy and reaction time



Cash Choice & Delay Discounting



- **Cash Choice** (baseline only):
 - “Let’s pretend a kind person wanted to give you some money. Would you rather have
 - \$75 in 3 days, or
 - \$115 in 3 months”
- **Delay Discounting**
 - ~3 minutes
 - Developed for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
 - Provides Indifference Points for 7 delays tested, and RTs



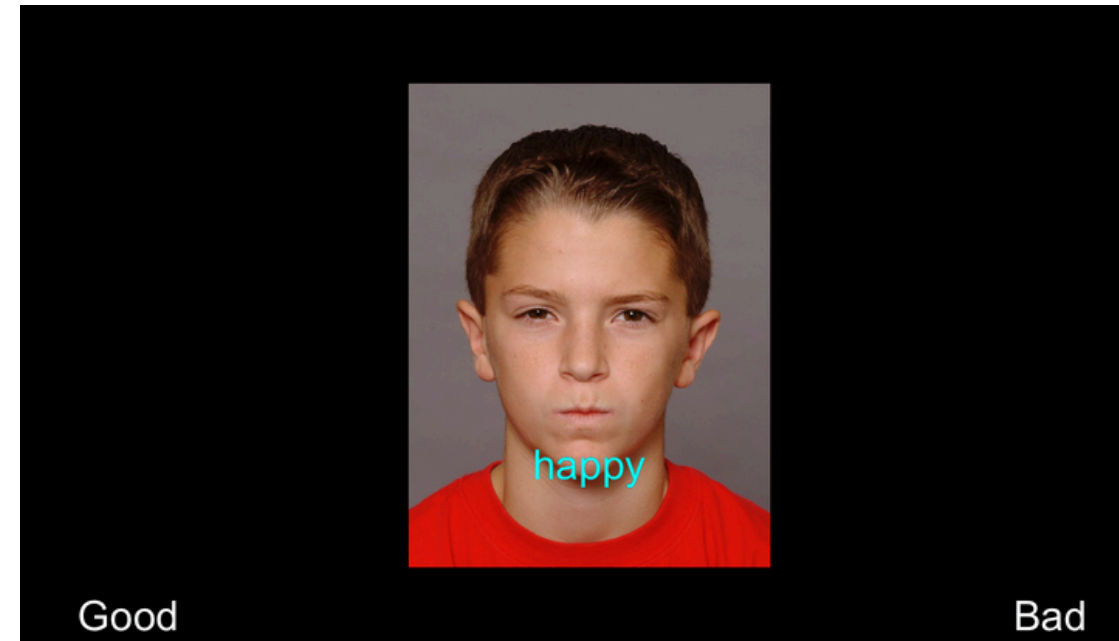
<https://www.millisecond.com/download/library/delaydiscountingtask/abcddelaydiscounting/>

Koffarnus & Bickel, 2014. *Exp. Clin. Psychopharmacology*.

Emotional Stroop



- ~9 minutes
- Developed for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
- Categorize words as "good" (happy, joyful) or "bad" feeling (angry, upset), while screen shows word-congruent or incongruent emotion face.
- Blocks:
 1. 25% incongruent and 75% congruent pairings
 2. 50% incongruent and 50% congruent pairings
- Provides accuracy and reaction time for each condition and block



<https://www.millisecond.com/download/library/stroop/abcdemotionalstroop/>

Banich et al., 2019, *Neuropsychologia*.

Game of Dice Task

- ~6 minutes
- Adapted for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
- Measure of inhibition and risky decision-making
- Provides number of safe vs. risky choices, wins, losses, and \$ balance

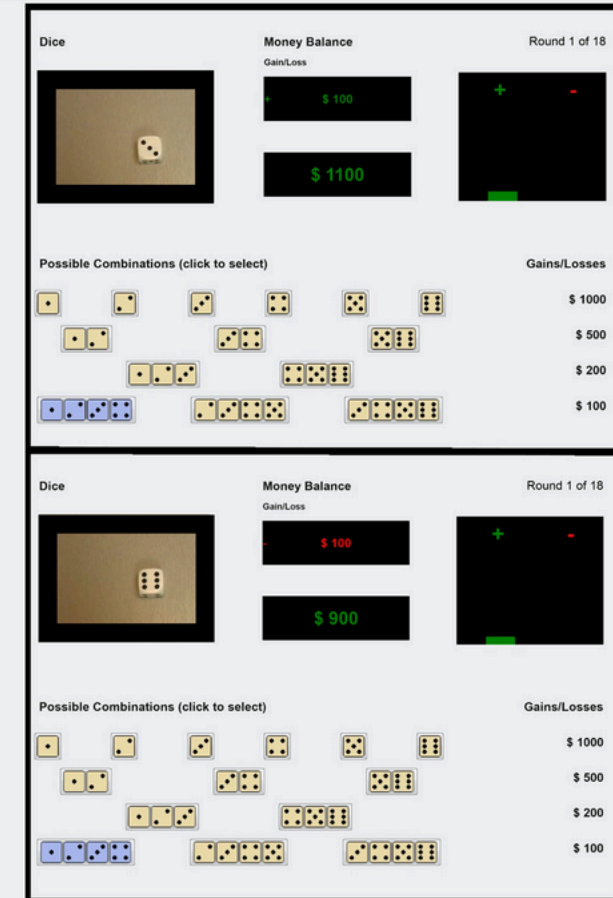
Instructions:

If you pick four numbers together, for example, 1, 2, 3, and 4, you win \$100 if the result is 1, 2, 3, or 4.

If the result is any of the other numbers, like 5 or 6, you lose \$100.

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Social Influence Task

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- ~9 minutes
- Developed for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
- Assesses social influence and risk taking
- Provides risk rating, and socially-influenced *change* in risk rating

The figure displays two sequential screenshots of the Social Influence Task interface, which is used to assess risk-taking behavior and its change under social influence.

Top Screenshot:

- Task:** Going out in the cold with wet hair
- Question:** How risky is it?
- Slider:** A horizontal orange slider bar is shown, with the marker positioned at the far left, indicating a "Very LOW Risk" rating.
- Labels:** "Very LOW Risk" is labeled on the left, and "Very HIGH Risk" is labeled on the right.

Bottom Screenshot:

- Context:** People your Age Rated
- Task:** Going out in the cold with wet hair
- Question:** Please rate again
- Slider:** A horizontal orange slider bar is shown, with the marker positioned at the far right, indicating a "Very HIGH Risk" rating.
- Labels:** "Very LOW Risk" is labeled on the left, and "Very HIGH Risk" is labeled on the right.

Stanford Mental Arithmetic Response Time Evaluation

ABCD-ReproNim

- ~7 minutes
- Developed for ABCD by Millisecond using Inquisit platform
- Math Enumeration: speed and accuracy of perceiving dot arrays
- Math Fluency & Math Recall: how many simple addition and subtraction questions participant can complete in time
- Math anxiety item

Select the appropriate buttons on the number pad

1

'Imagine you are about to take a math test in school. How nervous would you feel?'

Press the face that shows how nervous you would be.



Not
nervous
at all



A little
nervous



Somewhat
nervous



Very
nervous



Very very
nervous

Methodological Considerations



- **Training:**

- Key to valid neurocognitive data
- RA consistency facilitated by:
 - annual site visits with observations and feedback
 - weekly all-site RA meetings by Zoom
 - annual Train the Trainer meetings
 - detailed SOPs for each protocol element on Confluence accessible to all ABCD staff and investigators
- ABCD Neurocognition Workgroup regularly evaluates data for irregularities

- **Vision** (Snellen) and handedness also assessed

- You may want to exclude cases with low vision

- **Practice effects:**

- Challenge to any longitudinal study with repeated cognitive tasks
- Compare those who missed tasks at prior time point versus those who had it
 - 1% of participants per time point (n=~117)
 - Compare those who took versus didn't take a task on demographic and other variables
 - Estimate extent to which prior testing influences subsequent performance
- Overlapping assessments of youngest (age ~9 at baseline, age 11 at two-year follow-up) with oldest subjects (age 10.9 at baseline), allowing for "once-vs-twice tested" estimation of practice effects in context of development

Methodological Considerations



- Tasks typically given annually in-person, by trained RA via iPad
- COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - ABCD quickly developed versions for remote administration
 - At-home versions given via smart phone (most common platform across participants)
 - March 2020 – ?
 - 3-year follow ups all remote
 - Includes the 3 usual tasks, given via smartphone remotely
 - July 2020 - ?
 - 2-year follow-ups remote OR with modified in-person protocol
 - Remote: includes all the usual tasks except:
 - No TB Pattern Comparison Processing Speed
 - No Snellen vision test
 - Youth or parent's smart phone is used instead of an iPad
 - Millisecond smart-phone Flanker task (rather than Toolbox's Flanker)
- Modified in-person:
 - If youth has no access to smart phone or quiet setting, may be tested on-site in separate room from staff using ABCD iPads

Summary of ABCD Neurocognition Battery



- Designed to examine:
 - Typical development
 - Altered trajectories due to environmental or genetic factors
- Tasks cover:
 - General Ability/Intelligence
 - Learning/Memory
 - Executive functioning / Cognitive Control
 - Reward
- Methodological considerations:
 - Trained staff, regular checks for consistency
 - Remote administration in effect for pandemic and those who moved away
 - Mode of administration available in data releases
 - Should be considered for inclusion in models as may account for variability in performance

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Bjork, Jim (Co-Chair) – Virginia Commonwealth University

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